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ABSTRACT

UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential. This report details the accomplishments and activities of UNICEF for the year 1997. The report begins with introductory remarks from the U.N. Secretary-General. The overview statement from the executive director notes the need to work toward a new global agenda for children in the 21st century while meeting the 2000 goals set at the World Summit for Children. The accomplishments of UNICEF in 1997 are then summarized, focusing on the development of partnerships to meet goals, fulfillment of the World Summit goals, attention devoted to process in achieving goals, broadening of scope of UNICEF activities, and building of a culture of human rights. UNICEF efforts to improve child health and education, reduce maternal mortality, end discrimination against girls and women, end child labor, and protect children from HIV/AIDS are detailed for various regions of the world. The work of UNICEF to use various media to reach children and adolescents is also described. Programs in partnership with others are detailed, including those with nongovernmental organizations in industrialized countries, other nongovernmental service organizations, private sector organizations, the World Bank, and other U.N. agencies and programs. The report outlines UNICEF's resources and management, including income, government contributions, and expenditures. Total UNICEF income is delineated by source of funding for each country or organization. The report concludes with contact information for various UNICEF committees. (KB)

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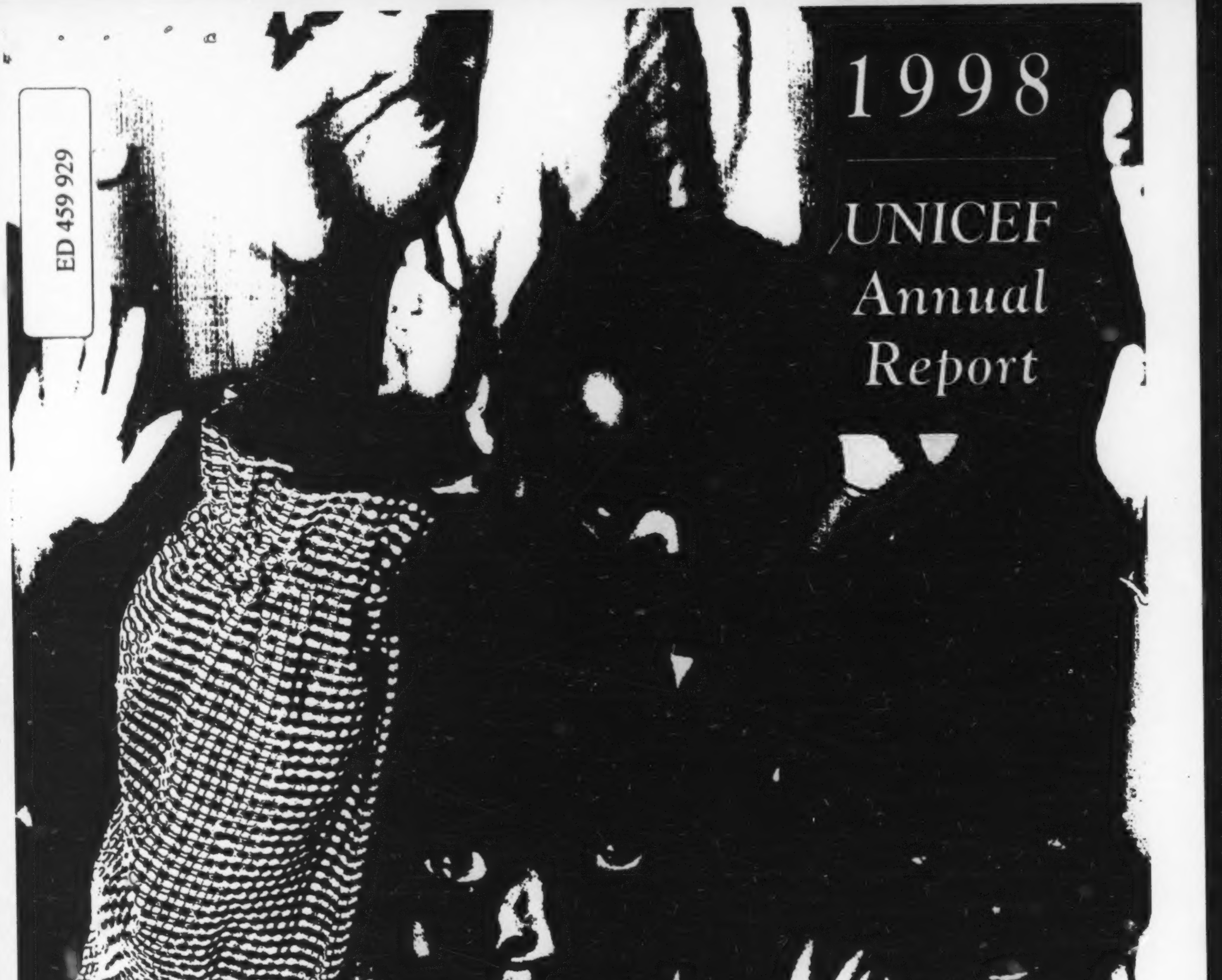

1998

UNICEF Annual Report

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United Nations Children's Fund

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1998 UNICEF Annual Report

Covering
1 January to
31 December
1997

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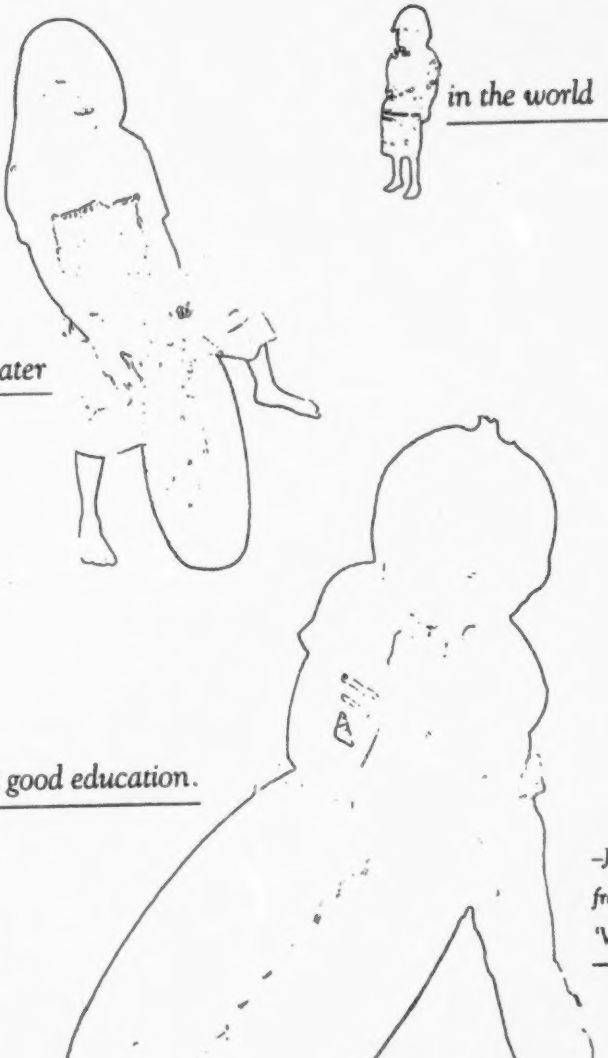
I think every child



in the world

should have food, water

and a good education.

–Jeffrey, 10,
from the UNICEF Web site
'Voices of Youth'

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1 January to 31 December 1998

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* France, Greece and Sweden replaced Denmark, Italy and Turkey effective 1 January 1998.

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Foreword

Child rights have come a long way since 1946, when UNICEF was founded to help girls and boys suffering from the destruction of World War II. Most landmark human rights conventions did not yet exist, and children's rights were barely recognized.

Two years later, in 1948, the unanimously endorsed Universal Declaration of Human Rights laid much of the groundwork for today's greatly expanded rights landscape, which includes treaties devoted entirely to women and children.

In 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child codified the rights of the world's youngest citizens. The most widely accepted human rights treaty in history, the Convention has been ratified by all countries but two. This means that in almost every country of the world children benefit from a binding commitment to protect, defend and fulfil their most fundamental rights—to an adequate standard of living, to protection from exploitation and abuse, and to freedom of speech and religious belief, among many others.

Can a treaty make any difference to children who live in poverty, have no access to school, suffer debilitating malnutrition, work at hazardous jobs, or are driven from their homes by the terrors of war? It can, if backed by the will of the people.

By ratifying the Convention, governments agree to commit resources to fulfil child rights, and civil society helps channel these resources where they will make the greatest difference. UNICEF plays a major role in this process, which is transforming the organization itself. Since the Convention came into force less than 10 years ago, child rights have become the driving force of every one of UNICEF's country programmes.

UNICEF is also ensuring that these rights assume a prominent place in United Nations reform, begun this year. During 1997, for example, UNICEF joined key agencies in creating a common development assistance framework, placing child rights high on the agenda.

Much has been learned since 1946 about how to put principles into practice. We know, for instance, that lasting improvement in people's lives will come only when individuals, families and communities are all involved. Women have a key role to play in this process, and children must participate as partners. Reliance on these strategies has placed UNICEF at the very heart of United Nations efforts to mount an effective attack on the poverty, discrimination, violence and injustice that continue to plague our children and our world.

Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General
of the United Nations

OVERVIEW

UNICEF/92-409/Lemoyne

A health worker vaccinates a child in Phnom Penh. The right to the highest attainable standard of health is featured in article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

THIS IS A TIME OF TRANSFORMATION FOR UNICEF. In the next two years, we must push hard for the fullest possible achievement of the year 2000 goals set at the World Summit for Children. But we must go even further, working towards a new global agenda for children in the 21st century—an agenda solidly rooted in child rights.

As the lead United Nations agency helping governments implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is transforming its country programmes into dynamic forces for the rights of all children. This is essential for full recognition of child rights, without which it will be hard to complete the unfinished business of the 1990s.

That business includes preventing the deaths of 585,000 women each year from complications in pregnancy and childbirth; educating 140 million school-age children who are still not in class, 60 per cent of them girls; helping 250 million working children, many trapped in dangerous and exploitive labour; and providing safe waste disposal for the 2.9 billion people, half of them children, at risk of disease and death because of inadequate sanitation. In a world of plenty, malnutrition contributes to nearly 7 million child deaths each year.

These are immense challenges, but we can be proud of successes that stretch back over more than 50 years of service to children. Child survival rates have doubled since our organization was founded in 1946, thanks largely to simple, low-cost technologies, the involvement of communities, and a determination to put children first—strategies championed by UNICEF.

Through our Management Excellence Programme, we continue to cut costs, streamline

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UNICEF/97-0457/Horner

UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy talks with girls during her visit to a kindergarten in Pyongyang.

> *"As the lead United Nations agency helping governments implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is transforming its country programmes into dynamic forces for the rights of all children."*
>
> *— Carol Bellamy*

operations and devolve decision-making to the field. And we took a lead role in the 1997 United Nations reform plan, working with sister organizations to create a common development assistance framework.

Such collaboration is essential. With overseas development assistance at an all-time low, the solution to the problems facing children lies in ever greater partnerships among governments, UN agencies and civil society. Two successes in 1997 show what can be achieved:

The International Conference on Child Labour, sponsored by the Government of Norway and held in Oslo, was an important step in consolidating progress made so far in protecting the rights of working children. UNICEF's collaboration with the International Labour Organization and other partners to end the exploitation of children in the workplace bore fruit at the October conference, when 40 nations adopted a global strategy for the elimination of child labour. And we were encouraged when, in December, two thirds of the world's nations signed a treaty banning landmines. For years, UNICEF had been campaigning for such a ban, working with the non-governmental organizations that form the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Looking ahead, we are now drawing up our agenda for the next millennium. This far-reaching plan for children and women, to be finalized in 1998, will incorporate the lessons learned over the last five decades. It will also devise ways to benefit from unparalleled advances in communications, science and technology. Addressing the main obstacles to progress for children and women, such as poverty, gender discrimination, exploitation and violence, it will amount to nothing less than a global plan of action to kick-start progress for children and women in the 21st century.

Carol Bellamy
Executive Director

UNICEF IN 1997

UNICEF/C-85/4/[illegible]

Boys participate in an electrical workshop at a centre for children living or working on the streets in La Paz. UNICEF encourages children to develop skills that will help them participate fully in society.

PIONEERING PARTNERSHIPS: FORCES FOR CHANGE

THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND works with governments, civil society organizations and other partners in more than 160 countries to advance children's rights to survival, protection, development and participation. As the largest development agency in the world working for young people, UNICEF has helped carry the banner of child rights in the march of progress for children. Much of this work involves mobilizing political will and support to ensure that the world's children get 'first call' on society's resources.

In 1997, UNICEF and its partners helped focus worldwide attention on many issues requiring urgent and concerted action: the many millions of children who suffer from malaria and malnourishment; the plight of children who serve in armies or work at hazardous or exploitive jobs; the scourge of landmines, which harm more civilians than soldiers; discrimination and violence against girls and women; the nearly 600,000 adolescent girls and women who die needlessly each year from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth; the terrible toll HIV/AIDS takes on young people; the many unmet needs of adolescents; and the widening gap between rich and poor, which leaves ever greater numbers of people at the bottom of the economic ladder and without access to social services.

Dealing with these and other complex issues requires broad alliances. For that reason, UNICEF each year widens its partnerships with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, and the private sector *(see panel, 'The year landmines were banned')*. The year 1997 was no exception.

◆ UNICEF and the World Bank have increasingly collaborated on many projects and signed a major agreement to help bring safe water, sanitation and hygiene education to over 250 million people in Africa.

◆ In November, UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO) collaborated on an advocacy campaign in preparation for the Norway-sponsored International Conference on Child Labour, which featured the participation of youth groups and former child labourers.

As a result of these combined efforts, 40 governments backed a global action plan that will, among other measures, promote legislation to protect children from exploitive labour and expand education to reach children at risk.

UNICEF *at a glance*

The only UN agency devoted exclusively to children, UNICEF is governed by a 36-member Executive Board that establishes policies, reviews programmes and approves budgets. With headquarters in New York and elsewhere, UNICEF carries out its work through 8 regional offices and over 130 field offices worldwide. UNICEF offices in Tokyo and Brussels support fund-raising. UNICEF also has a research centre in Florence, while the supply operation is managed from Copenhagen.

Countries, areas and territories with UNICEF programmes: 161
Percentage of posts located in the field: 84%
Posts worldwide: 6,280
Number of National Committees for UNICEF: 37
Largest programme sector by expenditure: Child health
Top government donor (in total funds): United States
Top government donors (per capita): Norway, Sweden

MAKING RIGHTS A REALITY

UNICEF's five-year country programmes, guided by the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, highlighted several areas during the year:

FULFILMENT OF WORLD SUMMIT GOALS: The bedrock of UNICEF work with governments continues to be the fulfilment of development goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children, UNICEF's yardstick of progress with regard to many rights.

The goals cover basic survival and development targets—such as improving nutrition and access to education, health services, safe water and environmental sanitation—as well as protection from harm and abuse. During 1997, UNICEF focused ever more strongly on fulfilling year 2000 goals for children and worked with partners to shape a future agenda for children.

One priority is to expand immunization and sustain gains made by strengthening routine services and spreading awareness of its benefits. Where children are at high risk of disease, major campaigns have proved an important stopgap.

◆ In the largest health campaign in history, more than 125 million children received vaccinations against polio during India's National Immunization Days in 1996-1997.

MEANS AS IMPORTANT AS ENDS: In 1997, UNICEF devoted more attention to 'process' in achieving its ends: strengthening the capacity of communities and local government to plan, manage and sustain programmes; and widening participation in development to include the efforts of children, families and members of civil society. Programmes that adopt these strategies are better tailored to local needs and help ensure that achievements are sustained well into the future. These strategies become increasingly important as more governments adopt policies that shift resources and responsibilities from central to local levels.

Community involvement has been key to increasing the number of girls enrolling and staying in school.

◆ In Burkina Faso's 'satellite school' programme, for example, parents help construct classrooms, select teachers and monitor the children's academic performance.

◆ In Senegal, similar community-based approaches helped increase girls' enrolment from 50 per cent in 1995/1996 to 53 per cent in 1996/1997.

BRANCHING OUT: The rights-based approach has led UNICEF to broaden its scope to cover all aspects of child well-being, from early childhood care and development to protection from abuse, exploitation and armed conflict. Programmes have expanded to reach not just infants and young children but also adolescents and youth.

A CULTURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS: Efforts on behalf of children and women cannot be sustained unless rights form the basic fabric of life for families, communities and nations. UNICEF works to create a culture of rights reaching from the top layers of government to every household.

Legislation has proven a powerful starting point, especially when followed up with concrete implementation measures in communities, such as the training of teachers and law enforcement officials.

◆ In Peru, UNICEF helped fulfil the child's right to a name and nationality by supporting training for 9,000 public registrars. At the same time, the organization worked with the National Association of Municipalities, educators, women's organizations, police, the country's largest soccer clubs and others to provide free registration for over 100,000 children and adolescents lacking official birth documents. As a result, 24,000 children previously excluded from education were enrolled in school, and the need for registration was given wide publicity.

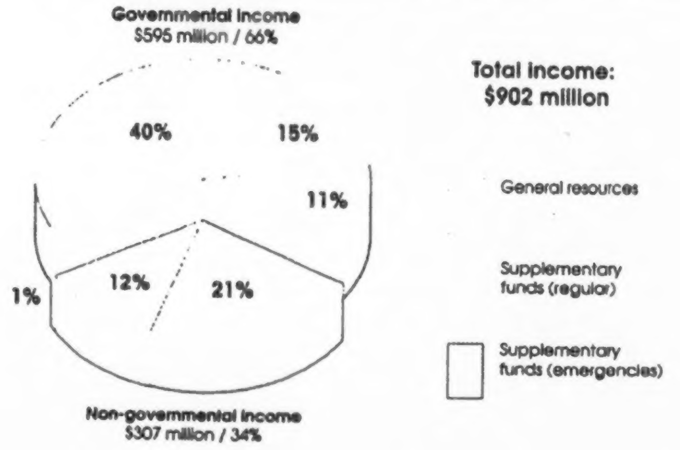
To ensure that this rights-based approach will benefit every child, UNICEF programmes open up new avenues for children to learn about their rights and participate in implementing them.

◆ In 1997, Colombia's regional elections included a 'pledge for peace' that drew more than 10 million supporters. This pledge grew out of UNICEF-sponsored children's elections in 1996 in which nearly 3 million young people voted to make peace a priority, alongside rights to protection and to a family. For their contribution to these and follow-up efforts, Colombia's children were nominated for the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize.

GETTING THE FACTS: One of the best ways to spur action on behalf of children and women is to put reliable information in the hands of those well placed to take action.

A successful technique for building national capacity to track progress for children is the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), a low-cost, fast and reliable household survey method developed by UNICEF and several UN agencies. MICS are carried out by government ministries of health and national statistics offices, with UNICEF assistance.

UNICEF INCOME BY SOURCE 1997



◆ In 1996-1997, UNICEF backed Angola's first national survey on children since 1970 and helped analyse its results. Collecting data from over 4,000 households in 18 provinces, MICS contributed to national unity by using interviewer teams that included both representatives of the Government and former rebel forces.

◆ In a 1997 UNICEF evaluation of MICS methods in 60 countries, the majority of governments reported that participating in the surveys helped them develop their own capacity to gather and analyse data.

ALLIANCES FOR CHANGE

Voluntary contributions form the bulk of UNICEF income, over half of which in 1997 came from the Governments of 10 countries: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. The United States remained the largest government donor in 1997, and increased its contribution over the previous year.

NGOs and the private sector provided almost one third of UNICEF's income, which included major contributions from 37 National Committees for UNICEF, the organization's voice and fund-raising arm in industrialized countries. During the year, UNICEF welcomed the valuable contributions of many thousands of child and adult volunteers all over the world.

While income fell in 1997, funding for general resources, the core of programme funds, remained fairly stable. At a time of declining official development assistance, continued funding for general resources, a priority for UNICEF, is one measure of the organization's accountability and success.

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: Collaboration among UN development agencies improved in 1997, following the UN Secretary-General's announcement in July of an extensive plan for UN reform.

UNICEF entered the reform process on a strong footing, strengthened by its own Management Excellence Programme, which has helped the organization streamline its operations and devolve more management functions to regional and field offices. In 1997, the organization took another step in this direction, giving regional offices responsibility for approving proposed country programmes, a process that will begin in 1998.

UNICEF's long-standing and extensive presence in the field has enabled the agency to play a vital role in UN reform. During the year, 18 UNICEF country programmes took part in the pilot phase of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

This plan draws funds and programmes into a common framework and is creating shared indicators for monitoring progress. Core partners in UNDAF are UNICEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Closer collaboration among the UN organizations has already begun to bring about savings and efficiencies, and offers UNICEF a prime opportunity to advance children's rights both within the UN system and on the global development agenda.

The year landmines were banned

Almost every hour, somewhere around the globe, an anti-personnel landmine deprives a child of sight, limbs or life itself. In December 1997, 123 nations took a giant step towards ridding the earth of this scourge by signing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, and on Their Destruction.

This landmark treaty, which will become law when ratified by 40 countries, is the most recent victory in a long-standing anti-landmine effort on the part of communities, civil society groups, governments and international organizations.

UNICEF joined the call for an all-out ban on landmines in 1992, and since then has advocated that such a ban also be adopted as a Protocol to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects.

In 1995, the agency announced that it would refrain from procuring goods or services from any company involved in landmine production or sale. UNICEF has also participated in the Ottawa Process, which hammered out the 1997 treaty text.

A Cambodian boy who lost a leg in a landmine accident puts on a prosthesis.

UNICEF/92-435/Lemoyne

Some 110 million mines are in the ground, 1 for every 12 children. UNICEF supports mine awareness and the physical and psychosocial rehabilitation of victims and assists efforts to map mines and clear them wherever possible. Some highlights of the organization's activities in 1997 include the following:

◆ In Angola: sponsored mobile mine-awareness exhibitions and helped collect 10,000 signatures urging government commitment to the 1997 treaty text.

◆ In Cambodia: supported prosthetics programmes, which provided services to more than 1,000 children and women during the year.

◆ In Iraq: distributed a mine-awareness book to 60,000 children in 700 schools.

◆ Worldwide: launched an animated video, *The Silent Shout: Helping Children Learn About Landmines*, for global distribution. The video was adapted for use by elementary schools throughout Canada.

Since 1992, UNICEF has cooperated with, and provided support for, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, a coalition of more than 1,000 NGOs. For its work in making the 1997 anti-landmine treaty a reality, the coalition and its coordinator, Jody Williams, won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

With landmines high on its anti-war agenda, UNICEF in November urged its country representatives and National Committees to "pull out all the stops" in promoting States' ratification of the treaty. Bringing the treaty into force will be the next major step in ensuring a mine-free world.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

UNICEF/91-0191/Lemoyne

An Ethiopian girl answers a question at a school in the farming community of Melka Oba, where UNICEF support has helped a local NGO provide a primary school, health clinic, grinding mill and irrigation system.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

NATURAL DISASTERS AND ARMED CONFLICT heaped suffering on millions of people during the year. The El Niño weather system unleashed torrential rains or brought drought that devastated harvests from Ethiopia to southern Africa. In several countries, people affected by drought early in the year fell victim to dangerous flooding later on.

◆ In Somalia, flood waters endangered several hundred thousand people, as homes, roads and bridges were swept away. UNICEF responded within 24 hours of the declaration of the emergency and assumed management of an inter-agency team. Helicopters and boats delivered supplies and rescued victims; chlorine was distributed to treat water sources; and basic drugs were provided to health centres. Around 250,000 people received emergency relief assistance, including food.

◆ In Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, flooding towards the end of the year helped create the region's worst cholera epidemic in decades. Working with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF assisted national cholera task forces by providing emergency medical supplies and by spreading awareness of how to prevent, treat and manage the disease.

Increasingly, UNICEF involves the people most affected or at risk in helping to plan and manage emergency operations and to rebuild devastated communities. In Uganda, for example, UNICEF

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sponsored training for key health, welfare and education officers from various districts to protect the rights of children caught in emergencies.

The organization assists communities in acquiring the skills and resources needed not only to prevent and cope with emergencies but also to proceed with development. Ensuring continuous development is vital: Programmes to preserve basic education or to expand access to safe water and sanitation, for example, can help both to prevent emergencies and to mitigate their effects on vulnerable groups.

In 1997, a Regional Emergency Support Unit was set up to handle complex emergencies in the Great Lakes region and to help countries anticipate and respond to human and natural disasters. During the year, the unit supported surveys in several countries to determine their levels of preparedness for floods and droughts.

ASSISTANCE TO THE GREAT LAKES REGION

While peace efforts moved forward in Angola and Somalia, violence, both random and extreme, continued to plague hundreds of thousands of families in the Great Lakes region and in parts of Uganda (*see panel, page 41*). Along with Ethiopia, Tanzania now hosts the largest number of refugees in the region—about 340,000.

In 1997, as many as 50,000 Burundi children in Tanzanian refugee camps were able to continue their education—and obtain a sense of normalcy in their lives—as a result of agreements between the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania. These agreements, negotiated by UNICEF and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), allowed emergency workers to bring refugee children the same books and examination papers they would have been using at home, and permitted Burundi education officials to visit the camps and present children with certificates of achievement.

To help displaced children inside Burundi, UNICEF assisted in the construction of 146 temporary classrooms serving over 14,000 students. Nationally, the organization provided funds for tuition subsidies and school supplies and launched a government/UNICEF radio campaign emphasizing the value of education. These and other measures achieved remarkable results: National school enrolment rates recovered by almost 20 per cent during 1997.

In Rwanda, more than 18,000 children separated from their parents or caregivers were reunited with their families in 1997 through a family tracing and reunification programme begun by UNICEF in 1994 in collaboration with several agencies and NGOs.

IMPROVING NUTRITION

As a result of El Niño, armed conflict and other problems, economic forecasts for most countries had to be revised downwards. Only Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Mozambique enjoyed vigorous growth.

Economic disruption and armed conflict have contributed to increasing malnutrition in about half of the countries in the region. Sub-Saharan Africa has a higher percentage of children dying before the age of five than does any other region of the world, including South Asia. About half of these deaths are associated with malnutrition. The reasons for this human tragedy are many and complex. Long-lasting solutions begin with families and emphasize important links among food, health and care for both children and women.

◆ In Tanzania's Child Survival and Development Programme, assisted by UNICEF, communities in half the country have successfully fought malnutrition since the early 1980s by monitoring the growth of their children, by planting home gardens and by improving the treatment of diarrhoea, hygiene standards and the nutrition content of food, for example.

◆ In Zambia, UNICEF assisted the Government's ground-breaking reform of the health sector to ensure the participation of communities

UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:

Angola
Botswana
Burundi
Comoros
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Kenya
Lesotho
Madagascar
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
Rwanda
Sao Tome and Principe
Seychelles*
Somalia
South Africa
Swaziland
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

* through regional funds.

Somali children stand in the flood waters of the Shabelle River as heavy rain falls. An inter-agency flood relief effort headed by UNICEF provided food, medicines and other emergency supplies to some 250,000 people in southern Somalia.

UNICEF/97-0742/Chalasani

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SOMALIA

Former rivals provide safe water

Water is precious in Somalia, a country whose social services were devastated by years of civil war. Water pipes, wells and storage tanks were often prime targets of inter-clan hostilities. Yet today, in the town of Jowhar, UNICEF-assisted efforts to repair, maintain and build water systems have brought local clans to work together for the first time in recent history.

Jowhar was like many violence-afflicted towns and villages throughout Somalia. Located 90 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, the town had seen rival clans poison or destroy wells, vandalize water outlets and loot generators. As a result, most of its 30,000 inhabitants were forced to draw water from the polluted Shabelle River.

Starting in 1995, local government efforts to repair and expand the water system were hampered by mistrust among clans and by occasional violence. In 1996, UNICEF consulted with community members and began working with local government to rehabilitate water and sanitation systems. The European Union provided more than $800,000 for training, technical support and for the initial construction work implemented by UNICEF.

Meanwhile, the community came up with a novel plan: to entrust management of the project to a private company directed by 14 experienced business people representing a cross-section of clans. UNICEF agreed to train the company's employees to manage and maintain the systems and to collect fees for water usage. It was agreed that locally elected water committees would introduce improved family hygiene practices into the community.

The plan worked. With a contract from the local government and advice from UNICEF, the Farjano ('spring of heaven') Company began business in August 1997, taking over management of operations and construction work from UNICEF. By the end of 1997, as a result of all these efforts, 77 water points (with usage metres and drains), taps and private house connections had been restored or built. Safe water flowed to more than half the town.

Farjano now makes a small profit by selling up to 200,000 litres of water a day for the reasonable price of around 8 Somali shillings (less than one US cent) per litre. Farjano's directors are ploughing initial profits into the water system. If peace holds and the project continues with additional funding, safe water will flow to the whole town. And once awareness is raised, improved hygiene could well become the household norm.

A woman breastfeeds her baby in a market in Angola. Since breastmilk provides the best nutrition for infants, UNICEF recommends that they be breastfed exclusively for about six months.

UNICEF/96-0124/Pirozzi

and civil society organizations in the development of primary health care and nutrition programmes.

Many efforts to improve nutrition focused on deficiencies of iron, iodine and vitamin A, a micronutrient that helps children fight off infection and reduces the severity of disease. By year's end, 10 countries were distributing vitamin A supplements during National Immunization Days (massive vaccination campaigns targeting young children). In many countries, vitamin A supplements have been distributed during routine immunization as well.

To help ensure adequate vitamin A in the diet, UNICEF gave technical advice to private companies that fortify sugar and other foods in several countries, notably in Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

Progress on eliminating goitre and other iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) is slow but encouraging: Ten countries have iodized 80 per cent or more of edible salt, reducing the risk of mental impairment for millions of children. Countries that have iodized virtually all salt have seen IDD decline at the rate of about 10 per cent a year.

Following a regional review of anaemia prevalence, 16 UNICEF offices devised plans to step up efforts to control the condition.

YOUNG VICTIMS OF HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to grow, especially in southern Africa. UNICEF is responding to the urgent needs of children who lose one or both parents to the disease.

In Botswana and Zimbabwe, UNICEF supported several pilot schemes that explored various care alternatives for orphans, especially foster placement. Rural pilot projects that have been successful in two districts in Zimbabwe are now set for nationwide replication.

In Namibia, where 21,000 children are expected to become orphans by the year 2001 as a result of AIDS, UNICEF conducted a major study on how children's lives are affected by the death of their parents and will use the results to inform new policies and programmes.

POLICIES AIMED AT GIRLS AND WOMEN

Girls and women suffer discrimination in their access to education and land and in some aspects of law. In addition, girls often receive less food and care from their families, and throughout adulthood they commonly carry a heavier work burden than do their male relatives. These inequalities, combined with related problems such as low self-esteem, underlie some of the region's most intractable problems: malnutrition, high maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS and adolescent pregnancy.

A few countries, notably Namibia and South Africa, are pursuing positive policies for women, but the process in many other countries remains slow. Action to reduce the vast numbers of girls and women who die during pregnancy and childbirth, for example, was uneven in 1997 and will be a major focus of UNICEF programmes during the 1998 Year of Safe Motherhood.

◆ UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health in Eritrea to develop a major national safe motherhood programme emphasizing community-based services for childbirth and postnatal care.

◆ Somalia is witnessing a groundswell of efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation—a practice that affects 99 per cent of girls and women in the country. In 1997, UNICEF co-sponsored a workshop for key community leaders from various parts of Somalia, who drew up action plans to eradicate the practice.

BE RESPONSIBLE

UNICEF/92-274/[illegible]

In Africa, the UNICEF-assisted Girls' Education Initiative helps bridge the gender gap in education by reducing costs for parents, making schooling more flexible and building community-based schools.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

The goal of achieving Education for All by the year 2000 remains elusive in many countries but 1997 saw some advances, including a doubling of enrolment in Uganda's primary schools. This achievement was partly due to the Government's waiver of school fees for up to four children per family.

UNICEF assists a variety of programmes aimed at reducing the cost of education, bringing schools closer to home, promoting more flexible schooling and improving the quality of education.

Many of these efforts are sponsored through the Girls' Education Initiative launched by UNICEF in 19 countries in Africa, and are helping to close the gap between the numbers of girls and boys who attend school.

◆ In Angola's Benguela Province, communities erected 50 *mini-escolas* (mini-schools) in 1997, which benefit over 5,000 children from pre-primary to fourth grade. The State covers teachers' salaries, while UNICEF assists with teacher training and with educational and other materials.

PROMOTING CHILD RIGHTS

As the Convention on the Rights of the Child gains influence in the region, UNICEF has shifted its focus from a narrow project-based approach to one built on broad programmes designed to bring about fundamental changes in the way children are viewed and treated.

- In South Africa and Uganda, UNICEF assisted in the development of provincial and district plans that promote child rights and aim to provide children with better health care, schools and other services.
- In Kenya, UNICEF helped develop a Children's Bill, a series of measures to promote children's rights, set to go before Parliament in 1998.

UNICEF sponsored a regional workshop for staff and government officials on the preparation of reports on implementing the Convention—which are submitted to the Geneva-based Committee on the Rights of the Child two years after ratification and every five years thereafter. As a result, all overdue reports are expected to be completed by the end of 1998.

Work towards fulfilling World Summit goals has greatly reduced the incidence of both polio and Guinea worm disease. Eradicating the diseases—and fulfilling other World Summit goals—will depend largely on whether the region can achieve lasting peace.

SOUTH AFRICA

Healing society's rifts

The child painted a picture of his home: a house on fire. As one man in the picture ignited the petrol-doused house, other men, carrying guns, waited to kill the child's mother, brother and sister as they tried to escape.

In workshops held by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in mid-1997, hundreds of children bore witness through art, stories and in private interviews to the tragedy of their experience under apartheid. Their collective portrait of apartheid's legacy highlighted the nation's many challenges.

Those challenges include acute inequality in income levels and in access to health, education and other services—evidenced in the death rate among poor rural black children under five, which is 10 times the rate for white children. Since 1994, when the country's first democratic elections marked the official end of apartheid, the South African Government has been under pressure to reduce these inequalities and heal society's rifts.

As one of the first international agencies to start work in the country, UNICEF has supported this effort by helping to ensure that the rights of children are welded into the nation's newly evolving legal and political framework and form part of its culture. The organization worked with the Government and National Children's Rights Committee to introduce comprehensive child rights into the new Constitution, which took effect in 1997.

During the year, Johannesburg joined the UNICEF Child-Friendly City Initiative, and with the organization's help is developing a Metropolitan Programme of Action for children. This broad-reaching plan will incorporate child rights into city planning and bring major resources to the city's most deprived children.

Impressed by Johannesburg's actions, other urban and rural communities have pledged to pursue child-friendly policies.

These and other achievements are laying a foundation for change, but enormous difficulties remain. Democratic institutions are still in their infancy and there is no precedent for government cooperation with civil society. Bitter controversy often erupts over the pace of change. Yet there is encouragement in the fact that so many groups have been able to set aside differences to unite behind the cause of progress for children.

One youth told the Commission how important it was for him to describe the apartheid experience without anyone "pouring petrol on (his) anger." The same might be said of the whole of South African society today as it struggles to overcome the legacy of the past.

UNICEF/[illegible]

Implementing child rights is a first step towards eradicating profound inequalities in children's access to basic services.

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

THE ECONOMIC AND HUMAN POTENTIAL OF West and Central Africa contrasts sharply with the desperate conditions of vast numbers of its people, who contend with the highest rates of child and maternal deaths in the world.

The benefits of modest economic growth in the past year were spread unevenly among social groups and rarely reached the most disadvantaged. The disintegration of social services in many places worsened the effects of poverty. More needs to be spent on these services, but governments are hampered by high foreign debt and by rapid population growth, which chips away at progress. Making matters worse is persistent armed conflict in some areas, which diverts spending from social services to armed services and incurs high costs for relief and rehabilitation.

ARMED CONFLICT

In 1997, civil wars in Sierra Leone and Congo-Brazzaville, and conflict spilling over from the Great Lakes region into the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), continued to disrupt the lives of hundreds of thousands of children and women. UNICEF assisted several major emergency operations during the year:

◆ During the civil war in Congo-Brazzaville, UNICEF maintained supplies of essential drugs to 2 hospitals and 6 health centres and provided emergency food to 15 camps for displaced people.

◆ In Sierra Leone, UNICEF provided similar support for 120 primary health centres, helping to contain a measles outbreak and to prevent cholera.

◆ In the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF worked with a multi-agency group supplying food and other supplies to 400,000 refugees and 200,000 families displaced by violence.

REBUILDING COMMUNITIES

In May 1997, when the Democratic Republic of the Congo ended 32 years of dictatorship, 80 per cent of the population was in poverty, 70 per cent of infants were not immunized and a third of children under five were malnourished. When the new government took office, UNICEF helped with immunization, education and other basic services. Among other measures, the agency supplied school equipment for 48,000 children and trained some 2,000 teachers.

As peace took hold in Liberia during the year, families displaced by violence began returning home to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. UNICEF helped support the governmental efforts to restore social services devastated by seven years of civil war. The organization provided nine county health teams with training, essential drugs and other equipment that helped them make 75 health centres operational. UNICEF also assisted with rehabilitation of more than 300 wells and handpumps and trained more than 27,000 people in health and hygiene practices. A UNICEF-backed drive to immunize children against polio and measles and supply them with vitamin A reached 90 per cent of under-fives in 47 urban centres.

SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

UNICEF urges governments to earmark 20 per cent of their national budgets (and donors to allot 20 per cent of development assistance) to basic social services, but this remains a formidable challenge for countries in this region. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, allocates only 0.5 per cent of its government budget to education. In 1997, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) worked with more than half the countries in the

UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:

Benin
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Dem. Rep. of the Congo
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Liberia
Mali
Mauritania
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Togo

A health worker dispenses medicines at a pharmacy in Mali. By encouraging local participation in managing and financing health services, the UNICEF-supported Bamako Initiative brings affordable health care to communities throughout the region.

UNICEF/93-2199/Pirozzi

SENEGAL

Village women ban female genital mutilation

"I will never allow my daughter to undergo genital cutting," says Astou Camara, a 19-year-old resident of Malicounda Bambara, a village of 3,000 people about 70 kilometres from Dakar. "I do not want her to suffer the way I suffered."

The cutting Ms. Camara refers to is female genital mutilation (FGM), an excision of all or part of the genitals, carried out on one in five girls in Senegal, ostensibly to keep them pure for marriage. For years Malicounda has celebrated this practice, which is often performed with insanitary utensils and commonly causes infection, lifelong complications and even death.

This year, no such ceremonies took place. In fact, for the first time ever, the people in Malicounda banded together to eliminate the practice. Led by a group of about 40 women, villagers convinced the elders and religious leaders that FGM is, as one young father said, "no longer justifiable."

What led citizens of Malicounda to reject FGM was an innovative two-year literacy project designed primarily for women. The project teaches classes on health, problem-solving and women's rights and is part of a nationwide programme administered by an NGO based in Senegal. The NGO, TOSTAN (which means 'breakthrough' in the Wolof language) launched the programme as a pilot scheme in 1989. Since then, it has reached 20,000 adults and young people in the country—mostly women.

Funds are provided mainly through UNICEF, with contributions from Canada and Norway. Additional support comes from the Netherlands and the American Jewish World Service. Villagers generally provide a classroom, furniture and supplies, and help with fees for teachers, more aptly called 'facilitators'.

Once the women of Malicounda Bambara realized that FGM was a violation of their rights, they won the support of their husbands and families and announced their decision publicly in July 1997. They also created a travelling theatre on human rights to dramatize the dangers of FGM, and set about opening a debate about FGM in neighbouring villages. So far, 27 additional villages have banned the practice.

The women's efforts, which were documented by UNICEF in a widely shown video, have won praise from Senegal's President, who has instructed Parliament to draft a law banning FGM.

region to evaluate spending patterns. Partly as a result, the Government of Chad raised social sector funding in its budget by 20 per cent.

In many countries, district and local governments are taking on more responsibility to provide social services, but they commonly lack sufficient funds or staff. UNICEF works with these institutions to make the most efficient use of their resources, especially in ways that benefit children.

❖ In Nigeria, when the city of Ibadan signed on to UNICEF's Child-Friendly Cities Initiative in 1997, the organization helped the city to begin directing resources to communities most in need by supporting a 'social mapping' survey. In the survey, key installations such as schools, health centres and water sources were marked and their numbers and locations weighed in relation to population density and poverty levels.

COMMUNITIES TAKE ON MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Most governments have tried to improve health care by encouraging communities to share in managing and financing health services. This strategy is championed in the UNICEF-supported Bamako Initiative, which was launched by African ministers of health in 1987, and has since been adopted widely throughout West and Central Africa. Studies have shown that this approach has increased access to health care services, the supply of essential drugs and immunization rates.

In 1996-1997, UNICEF supported a major evaluation of the Bamako Initiative in eight countries, which highlighted several problems: delays in salary payments, too little emphasis on preventing illnesses, the inability of the poorest families to pay nominal fees for essential drugs, irregular supplies of these drugs and a need for greater community participation, particularly from women. UNICEF is working with governments, donors and communities to overcome some of these problems.

❖ Preventive health care was given a boost in Benin, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania and Togo during the year, after UNICEF helped supply Bamako centres with vitamin A and iron/folate supplements for children and women. To help these same countries prevent malaria, a leading killer of children, UNICEF supplied the centres with bed nets impregnated with mosquito repellent. Demand for the nets is high, and even in poor communities health centres have been able to sell enough nets to recover costs.

UNEVEN PROGRESS ON GOALS

Poverty and inadequate social investment have caused this region to lag behind all others in achieving World Summit for Children goals. In only a few countries have infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates improved even moderately since 1990. Malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoeal disease continue to be the main causes of child death, and they interact with malnutrition, which affects about a third of children under five.

Many children suffer and die from measles and other diseases that are easily prevented by immu-

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

nization, which remains lower in this region than in many others. In Niger, for example, where one child in three dies before reaching the age of five, only a third of children are fully immunized. Nevertheless, some encouraging progress was made. In 1997, more than 1.8 million of Niger's children, or 87 per cent of the targeted under-five population, were vaccinated against polio during UNICEF-assisted National Immunization Days.

UNICEF/95-0095/[illegible]

In Burkina Faso, a girl washes her face at the tap of a village water pump. UNICEF is working with the Government and other partners to bring safe drinking water to 70 per cent of the population by the year 2000.

GUINEA WORM DISEASE: A SUCCESS STORY

More than half the region's population is without access to either safe water or adequate sanitation. As a result, water-borne infections are manifest in afflictions ranging from giardiasis to diarrhoea to polio. One of the most painful diseases, dracunculiasis, comes from the Guinea worm, which enters its victims as a tiny parasite and grows into a long worm that causes debili-

LIBERIA

Children overcome war's trauma

Around 6,600 children, some as young as six, served in Liberia's armies during seven years of civil war, which ended in 1997. Uprooted from their communities, these impressionable young people were abused, beaten or forced to witness or commit unspeakable acts of violence. When peace returned, UNICEF oversaw the children's demobilization from army life and launched the first programmes to reintegrate the former recruits into civilian life.

Although these boys and girls would like to forget the past and get on with their lives, this is not easy: Many schools are decimated, and Liberia's economy is a shambles. Moreover, those who experienced violence commonly suffer deep psychological scars.

Today, however, many of these children are not only in school but are also beginning to glimpse a brighter future with the help of psychosocial counselling and vocational training. They are among 2,485 children benefiting from the Support to War-Affected Youth programme (SWAY), begun in 1994 with funds from UNICEF and USAID. The programme, carried out by NGOs in seven counties, caters to former child soldiers and other children affected by war. A third of them are girls.

UNICEF-assisted programmes help reintegrate former child soldiers into society.

UNICEF/95-0179/Pirozzi

The children, aged 9 to 19, spend six to nine months learning skills in reading, writing and mathematics. At the same time, they can study a trade, such as carpentry, agriculture or graphic arts. The younger children concentrate on basic education. About two thirds of the students have already joined formal schools, many of which are being rehabilitated with assistance from UNICEF.

Older students learn business skills, including planning and management, cash flow and marketing. The programme helps them obtain small-business loans, set up cooperatives, work as SWAY trainers and secure work through UN programmes. In 1997, 1,198 youths completed vocational training.

SWAY's chief success has been in helping children regain a sense of belonging in society. All students are given psychosocial counselling by graduates of a UNICEF-assisted training programme offered through a community college. The young people participate in at least one hour a day of group and individual sessions.

The SWAY programme aims to reach 10,000 children and teens by the end of 1998.

UNICEF/94-1237/Pirozzi

In Chad, a midwife examines a pregnant woman. Training midwives to provide better care is a UNICEF priority in the region.

tating pain and serious infection.

Mobilized to act on the problem, communities became involved in local surveillance and other prevention and treatment activities. Combined with programmes ensuring safe drinking water, hygiene awareness and case containment, these efforts helped reduce the number of Guinea worm cases from 3 million in 1986 to 30,000 a decade later.

◆ In Mali, UNICEF assisted a multi-agency effort focusing on teaching hygiene awareness in schools and via the radio, which helped reduce the number of Guinea worm cases from 2,138 in 1996 to 1,006 a year later.

◆ In Nigeria, where poor sanitation increases the risk of Guinea worm disease, UNICEF assisted 363 communities with setting up and managing sanitation facilities (Sani-Centres) as well as centres to fabricate, promote and install low-cost household latrines (known as 'Sanplat'). More than 6,000 community members, 35 per cent women, received training in sanitation, hygiene education, handpump installation, community mobilization and community management of water/sanitation facilities. UNICEF also backed latrine installation and hygiene education in schools serving 25,000 children.

EDUCATION: PROMOTING EQUAL RIGHTS

In most countries of the region, schools suffer from low enrolment and quality of education. Less than half the children enter primary school at the recommended age, and many of them drop out. Girls are more likely than boys to miss school. There is some improvement, however: Strong government support helped during the year to bring steady advances in the proportion of girls in school in Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

◆ In 1997, UNICEF assisted Guinea's effort to reach out-of-school girls by building schools closer to communities. The agency funded the establishment of 45 non-formal education centres and trained 120 community members to be teachers. These and other steps helped boost the proportion of girls in school from 32 per cent in 1995/1996 to 36 per cent in 1996/1997.

SAFE MOTHERHOOD

In 15 countries in the region, between 800 and 1,800 women die for every 100,000 live births from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, and many more suffer debilitating complications. UNICEF is backing government efforts to strengthen community-based services, improve referrals of emergency cases and revitalize district hospitals.

◆ In Mali, where every woman enters pregnancy with a 1-in-24 chance of dying from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, this approach has greatly improved care for women. It has also helped cut—from one full day to just two to eight hours—the time it takes for a local centre to refer a complicated case to the district hospital and to arrange for transportation and care.

◆ In Burkina Faso, a UNICEF-assisted pilot project in Fada District that provides training and emergency supplies was highly successful in reducing maternal deaths at the district hospital.

REALIZING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

In 1997, UNICEF worked with governments to improve laws, attitudes and behaviour affecting children.

To help children in conflict with the law, Benin, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo established special juvenile courts, a measure supported by article 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In Benin, where girl domestics known as *vidomégons* are commonly exploited and/or trafficked to other countries, UNICEF supported a major public-awareness campaign emphasizing the rights of these girls to be treated fairly and to go to school. Media efforts included newspapers, radio, town criers, and a UNICEF-produced film, *Assiba's Fate*, distributed in five languages.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

THE MIDDLE EAST IS HOME TO MANY extremes. Rich nations abut poor and traditions thousands of years old contrast with modern lifestyles. Other extremes arise from the fact that many societies have leaped ahead with economic and social progress, leaving others far behind. As one of its priorities in the region, UNICEF worked with various governments to reduce disparities—between rich communities and poor, and between those having access to social services and those without.

WORLD SUMMIT GOALS: SIGNPOSTS OF PROGRESS

While progress in most countries has meant that World Summit goals have been approached or achieved, the three poorest countries—Djibouti, Sudan and Yemen—have encountered difficulties in the areas of universal education, reduction of maternal mortality and elimination of Guinea worm disease.

An Egyptian woman participates in a workshop on the use of teaching aids. UNICEF supports education with curriculum development, educational materials and teacher training.

UNICEF/96-1060/Toutounji

On the other hand, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia are among several countries that have met most of the Summit goals ahead of schedule.

Encouraging progress was also made in other countries. In Iran, for example, 98 per cent of under-five children were vaccinated against polio during National Immunization Days. The vaccination campaign, conducted by the Ministry of Health with support from UNICEF, WHO and other organizations, reached over 7 million children. Mobile teams visited households, and vaccination stations were set up in mosques, schools, parks, hospitals and highways. UNICEF publicized the campaign with television spots and posters and helped monitor progress and results.

Lebanon's post-war recovery is reaping dividends for children, with the private sector stepping in to play a role raising funds for immunization, salt iodization and other UNICEF programmes. Banque Audi, for example, gave $100,000 to projects helping children and raised an additional $50,000 through collection boxes placed in its branch offices.

HELPING IRAQ'S CHILDREN

In 1996-1997, UNICEF and the Government of Iraq worked with the World Food Programme (WFP) to carry out major surveys in that country to assess the impact on children of both the 1991 Gulf War and international sanctions. The surveys showed that the percentage of underweight children under five had jumped from 9 per cent to 26 per cent since 1991. They also showed that almost a third of children in that age group are chronically malnourished or stunted, and more than a tenth are acutely malnourished. This last figure represents an increase of almost 300 per cent since 1991.

Results of the surveys spurred international media attention and focused greater attention in the UN and elsewhere on the negative impact of sanctions on children.

As part of its ongoing country programme, UNICEF is working with various partners to reduce malnutrition. The organization supported the establishment of 1,200 Community Child Care Units, where local volunteers have begun monitoring the growth of under-fives. Children identified as malnourished are referred for treatment to centres providing health care and nutrition rehabilitation.

Many of Iraq's schools are dilapidated to the point where they pose hazards to children. In collaboration with the Netherlands Government, UNICEF helped rebuild 150 of them in the

UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:

Algeria
Bahrain*
Djibouti
Egypt
Iran
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait*
Lebanon
Libya*
Morocco
Oman
Qatar*
Saudi Arabia*
Sudan
Syria
Tunisia
United Arab Emirates*
West Bank and Gaza
Yemen

* through regional funds.

south-central part of the country, benefiting nearly 40,000 children. Roofs were reconstructed, wiring upgraded, latrines and sinks installed or remodelled.

Over 500 first-aid kits were distributed along with cleaning supplies. A campaign to refurbish 100 schools in Baghdad began in November in collaboration with a French NGO, Equilibre.

COPING WITH THE EFFECTS OF CONFLICT

In Algeria, many thousands of children and their caregivers have been affected directly by violent civil conflict, including killings. In 1997, UNICEF began working with a multi-agency group, national NGOs and the Ministries of Health, Education and Social Affairs to develop children's trauma counselling and psychosocial therapy programmes, which will be launched in 1998.

In Sudan, where 14 years of civil war between north and south have dramatically increased the survival needs of children and women, international development assistance to the country continued to fall. In 1997, operating with reduced funds and in very difficult conditions, UNICEF worked with the World Food Programme and national NGOs to provide emergency food and medical supplies to about 2 million people.

WEST BANK AND GAZA

Children get the chance to play

On a hilltop playground overlooking the West Bank village of Balaa, girls laugh and shout over a game of volleyball. A decade ago, a sight like this was almost unknown in the West Bank and Gaza, densely populated territories with 2.5 million people—half of them under 19. Most Palestinian children in these territories have grown up amid poverty, conflict and insecurity. Few have had places in which to socialize and have fun.

Today, Balaa's children have not only a playground but also an adjacent recreation and learning centre, where they can sing, dance, play ping-pong, enjoy board games, read, watch videos and also learn about their rights. This Children's Activity Centre came about through the hard work of local community groups. They supplied the building, built the playground, set up operations and recently donated a computer, one of the children's prized possessions.

These efforts formed part of the UNICEF-assisted Child-Friendly Communities Initiative (CFCI), a broad coalition of government and community groups helping to make children a priority in many towns and villages around the world. In the West Bank and Gaza, CFCI aims to ensure that children's rights take precedence in the peace process.

CFCI began assisting children's centres beginning in 1995, shortly after Palestinian-occupied territories achieved limited self-rule. By the end of 1997, communities had worked with the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Youth and Sport to open 15 activity centres, serving 1,900 children.

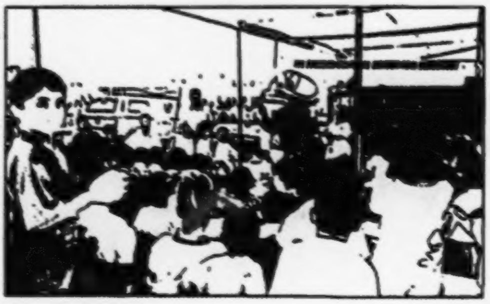
For 13-year-old Ola, the children's centre has made a world of difference. "My brother used to play in the streets and I stayed at home," she explains. "Now he and I come here and have a great time."

For this privilege, Ola and her brother pay about $2 a month, a token fee given by each of the centre's 100 children. Boys and girls generally drop by after school on separate days.

In the morning, the centre is a kindergarten. At night, it offers adult education classes, mostly for women. Youth volunteers, who manage the centres, learn about child rights from UNICEF workshops, which also teach skills in problem-solving and in improving community participation.

UNICEF donated more than $144,000, some of which paid for furniture and educational books and videos. With additional donor support, the programme aims to open more centres and expand activities for girls, out-of-school children and the disabled.

UNICEF-assisted Children's Activity Centres provide places for children to play, socialize and learn about their rights.



Palestinian Authority Ministry of Youth and Sports

BRINGING GIRLS' RIGHTS INTO THE MAINSTREAM

The region lags behind many others in efforts to promote women's rights. A little over half the countries (joined by Lebanon in 1997) have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. And many of these countries have tacked on major reservations.

In addition to women's rights, UNICEF supports equal rights for girls and boys and equal access to social services, including health care and primary education. Special attention is devoted to working with governments to enrol more girls in school and help them complete their education.

The UNICEF-assisted Community Schools Project in Egypt, begun in 1992, has brought education to 4,000 girls in about 150 small villages in remote rural areas of the Upper Nile region. Girls' enrolment had been low in this region, where a third of the population lives in hamlets at least 5 kilometres from the nearest government schools. Many parents were reluctant to send their daughters to these faraway schools.

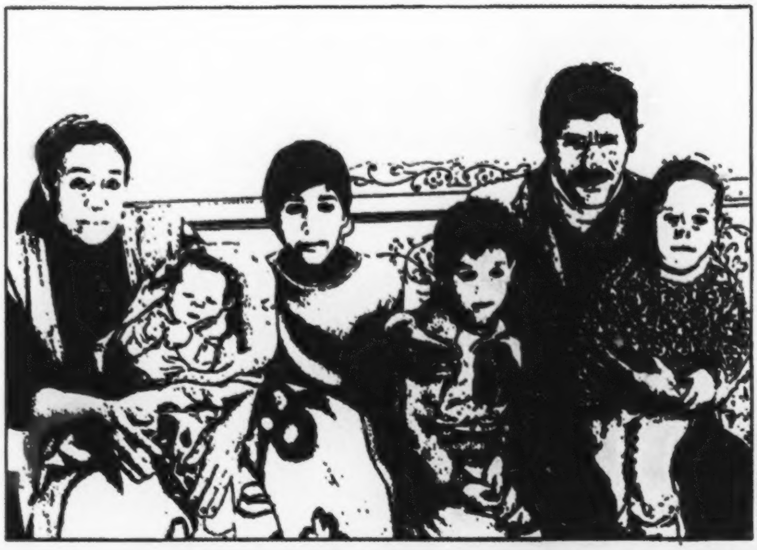
The free, multigrade schools in the project offer flexible schedules to suit local needs. Communities provide a simple building for the classes and participate in managing their school. The Government covers salaries, books and training of teachers. UNICEF provides training for project teams, curriculum development and some educational materials.

In 1997, the first group of 80 girls to complete grades 1 to 5 through this project were personally awarded certificates by the First Lady of Egypt. The Ministry of Education announced its intentions to expand the scheme nationally, with major financial support forthcoming from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Netherlands. The programme's success has prompted USAID to fund a similar community-based programme next year.

Reaching girls in rural areas is also a priority for Yemen, where the UNICEF-assisted Hamlet Schools programme begun in 1993 reaches almost 7,000 children in some of Yemen's most remote provinces. Each village donates labour and land for the creation of a primary school.

TRANSLATING RIGHTS INTO LAW

Making rights a reality often begins with parliamentarians and law enforcement officials. During 1997, UNICEF worked with these and other groups to help integrate child rights into the legal fabric of nations.



UNICEF/90-0214/Sprague

Families are key to fulfilling children's rights. In Tunisia, UNICEF assists training for the country's child protection delegates, who are developing ways to involve judges, social workers and families in protecting and promoting these rights.

- In Jordan and Oman, UNICEF assisted with training for national task forces in how to gather and analyse information used to prepare the country reports for the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- In Morocco, the agency trained 60 judges, probation officers, educators and others responsible for the well-being of children in ways to incorporate child rights into their work.
- In 1997, UNICEF child rights and legal advisers worked with the Government of Djibouti in introducing child rights into a new body of law known as the Family Code, to take effect in 1998. The new Code will combine tenets of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Sharia, or religious law, and traditional laws.
- In Tunisia, two child protection delegates were chosen in 1997, joining the eight appointed last year to help implement the Child Protection Code adopted in 1996. UNICEF assisted training for the delegates in interpreting legislation and developing more effective methods of working with judges, social workers and families.

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

Increasingly, UNICEF capitalizes on the talents and enthusiasm of young people to plan and manage activities supporting children's rights.

In Sudan, 600,000 people living in UNICEF-assisted 'child-friendly' villages helped make young people's rights a priority. Children in these 241

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Women form an army of health volunteers

In Iran, a massive health movement is being spearheaded by more than 34,000 female volunteers taking health information door to door. The Community Health Volunteers, also known as *Rabeteen*, serve urban areas inhabited by about 10 million people.

The *Rabeteen* programme, launched as a small pilot scheme in 1991 by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in collaboration with UNICEF, proves once again that women are prime catalysts of social change.

The volunteers, who typically are literate, enthusiastic and well regarded by their communities, receive two months of UNICEF-assisted training in basic health care. Operating out of local health centres to which they report weekly, *Rabeteen* publicize the services of these centres. At the same time, they record births, deaths and other vital information. Known and trusted by their neighbours, *Rabeteen* are able to reach people who might otherwise slip through the net of Iran's overburdened health system.

In addition to routine primary care, the women address urgent health concerns, including treatment of diarrhoea with oral rehydration therapy and care for children with acute respiratory infections. And they tell their neighbours about immunization, not only for children but also for pregnant women, who benefit from inoculation against tetanus.

UNICEF devised the training methods and materials for this work. The organization also helped expand the project into all provinces, provided health centres with basic supplies and equipment, publicized the programme, and supported pilot projects to expand coverage to rural and nomadic communities. Funds for activities from 1993 to 1997 amounted to $500,000.

Many *Rabeteen* have gone on to become effective lobbyists for their communities, helping to establish parks, set up garbage collection, pave roads, improve school sanitation, and launch women's cooperatives. And they voice their disappointment when officials fail to follow through with promised resources.

UNICEF/Iran

A Community Health Volunteer gives health tips to women and their children.

"Through this work," says Zahrah Hosseini, a volunteer in the city of Shiraz, whose sentiments are shared by many women in the programme, "I have grown in terms of my attitude and health. I have learned how to raise children better. And I know that I can also do something for society."

villages have carried out events raising awareness about family planning, harmful traditional practices, environmental degradation and other issues. This activity has taken a humorous turn, with young people now working with local teachers to write and perform short comedies for their communities. These 'Theatre for Life' skits, often hilarious spoofs on village life, have proven enormously popular and have invited participation of community members, old and young alike. By the end of 1997, over a quarter of the child-friendly villages were enjoying 'Theatre for Life'.

With UNICEF backing, a group of children in Lebanon gave a widely covered press conference in the Parliament building on the child's right to freedom of expression. During the conference, the children assessed the progress made by the Government in a number of areas since the first Children's Parliament in 1996. Among issues at the top of the list were education for children with special needs, the abolition of corporal punishment in schools and the need for more educational programming on television.

SUSTAINING PROGRESS FOR CHILDREN

Several higher-income countries in the region are moving towards greater self-sufficiency in their relationships with UNICEF, and they are exploring ways to sustain gains for children by strengthening social services and by continuing to protect and fulfil children's rights.

Oman is one such country, having made dramatic progress for children and women over the last several decades. For example, from 1970 to 1995, the mortality rate for Oman's children under five fell from 280 to 25 per 1,000 live births. This and other achievements have created a milestone: UNICEF's recent country programme of cooperation with the Government, launched in 1997, will be the last. During the transition, UNICEF will help the Government—and two national institutions set up to monitor the well-being and rights of children—strengthen programmes of social investment for young people.

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ALTHOUGH A WIDENING ECONOMIC CRISIS had engulfed much of the region by October, the year saw numerous positive gains for children. High immunization levels were sustained, and the number of polio cases had declined to just 22, a sign that eradication of this debilitating disease is fast approaching. Six countries appeared on track to achieve the World Summit goals on infant and under-five mortality, while seven countries have either achieved or are likely soon to achieve the targeted level of 80 per cent of children completing primary school. In addition, many countries made substantial gains in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child, enacting progressive legislation and even introducing constitutional provisions to protect the rights of children.

The region's considerable human development achievements are threatened, however, by continued economic uncertainty. Poor families have been devastated by the rapid devaluation of local currencies and the resulting job lay-offs, surging basic food prices and cuts in social services. Hardest hit have been families in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, where local currencies lost between 50 and 75 per cent of their value against the US dollar in just a few months.

Several countries knocked off course by the economic crisis have been forced to plan cutbacks on spending for social services and safety nets, which could intensify poverty, hardship and inequality. UNICEF has begun working with governments to protect vulnerable groups from the effects of these and other austerity measures.

EMERGENCIES: FIRE AND DROUGHT

As an economic cloud fell over Indonesia, so did a choking haze from forest fires that torched over 300,000 hectares on the islands of Sumatra and Kalimantan. The haze affected over 100 million people in Indonesia and parts of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, posing a particular hazard to children. Special efforts were made to protect children with respiratory problems. UNICEF Malaysia, for example, ordered 20,000 particle-filtering masks from the Supply Division in Copenhagen. They arrived within a week and were transported to Sarawak state by the Malaysian Air Force.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a collapsing infrastructure and the worst drought in the country's history resulted in massive crop failure and severe food shortages. The crisis placed 800,000 infants and young children at risk, and 80,000 in immediate danger of dying from starvation or disease.

Working with the World Food Programme, other development organizations and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, UNICEF airlifted approximately 150 metric tons of high-energy milk, supplementary food, medicines, feeding equipment and other supplies to help malnourished children. Another 350 tons of relief supplies arrived by sea or rail. At the same time, UNICEF provided support to longstanding programmes in health, nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, and small-scale food production.

MOBILIZING COMMUNITIES

Communities continued to become more involved in assessing their needs and in planning and managing programmes.

✧ In Cambodia, 226 villages elected local committees to assess and analyse local needs and develop action plans as part of a Community Action for Social Development programme. Their efforts bore fruit as new health, nutrition, water and sanitation, and food production projects took shape. Among these were construction of four new rural health centres and 750 village wells serving about 300,000 people; village-based growth monitoring to track the nutritional status of 50,000 children; and provision of seeds for home gardens to 5,000 families.

UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:

Cambodia
China
Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Fiji
Indonesia
Kiribati
Korea, Dem. People's Rep. of
Lao People's Dem. Rep.
Malaysia
Marshall Islands
Mongolia
Myanmar
Niue
Palau
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Thailand
Tokelau
Tonga
Tuvalu
Vanuatu
Viet Nam

In Thailand, a puppet show written, directed and performed by children educates students about the need for AIDS awareness.

UNICEF/97-0243/Horner

◆ In China, 91 officials in the poorest counties helped establish baseline indicators to measure the situation of children and women and develop county-level plans of action. In order to improve child-care skills, UNICEF supported training for nearly 16,000 men and women in 78 poor counties. Among the issues covered were child accident prevention, acute respiratory diseases, personal hygiene and environmental sanitation.

EDUCATION

Low enrolment is a problem in the region. But even when it improves, many students repeat grades or drop out of school early. Over 40 per cent of children repeat first grade in Cambodia, for example, while only 61 per cent of children in Viet Nam and 35 per cent in the Lao People's Democratic Republic complete primary school. To deal with these problems, many countries are encouraging closer ties between communities and schools.

◆ In Myanmar, leaders of the parent-teacher associations in rural villages with the lowest enrolment and retention rates were trained in how to collect household data on enrolment, monitor student enrolment and completion, and follow up on out-of-school students.

◆ Cambodia joined a number of countries in the region in raising enrolment rates. This success was due in part to the expansion of the UNICEF-supported cluster school project. This project combines strong and disadvantaged primary schools, up to eight per cluster, so that they can share resources and expertise to the benefit of weaker schools. By the end of 1997, clusters included 332 schools and 135,000 students.

◆ In Thailand, the Children's Integrated Learning and Development project (CHILD)

THAILAND

Job skills help prevent exploitation of young women

"Some of our classmates became prostitutes at 13, and it's been many years since we have heard from them," says Banyen Boonwong, a 19-year-old from one of Thailand's northern provinces. She has come to Bangkok to earn a living.

Busloads of girls travel to Thailand's capital from poor provinces, where advanced education and well-paid work are generally hard to obtain, especially for young women. Most come to cities looking for good jobs, but they often end up being exploited at work or trapped in prostitution. Many of them contract HIV/AIDS and die.

Banyen, who dropped out of school after sixth grade, is a remarkable exception. She is a member of the housekeeping staff at the plush Pan-Pacific Hotel, earning 12,600 baht (around $330) a month. On the side, she received a high-school diploma and she plans to enrol in university courses.

This ambitious young woman is one of 120 graduates of a work-skills programme assisted by UNICEF. Launched in 1995 by the Pan-Pacific Hotel, the Youth Career and Development Programme is now sponsored by seven other top hotels in Bangkok: Fortune Blue Wave, Hyatt, Regent, Royal Orchid Sheraton, Shangri-La, Sheraton Grand Sukhumvit and Westin.

Douglas Louden, Pan-Pacific's manager, helped round up the support of these hotels and plans to corral even more. He believes the private sector can be a major player in advancing the rights of young people.

The young women trainees are generally 17 to 19 years old and are recruited with the help of NGOs, schools, community groups and UNICEF. They spend five months learning the basics of the hotel trade: food and beverage services, flower arrangement, hospitality, housekeeping, cooking and laundering, and English-language skills.

The hotels provide them with a daily 100-baht stipend ($2.60), three meals a day, uniforms and shoes. UNICEF adds support for their travel from the provinces, lodging, a medical examination and health insurance. The young people also participate in UNICEF-sponsored workshops to explore their rights.

UNICEF/94-0129/Yodsamran

A 16-year-old girl learns gem-cutting as part of a UNICEF-assisted vocational training programme in northern Thailand.

Many women return to the hotels to work as managers, clerks, cooks or general staff. Others pursue similar jobs in Bangkok or their home towns. Still others pursue their education. UNICEF encourages this, and pays for non-formal education courses.

In 1997, the International Restaurant and Hotels Association adopted the Youth Career and Development Programme as a good model for community service. Hotels in the Philippines were the next to sign up, planning to launch the programme in 1998.

mobilized pupils, teachers, families and community members to create children's learning profiles. These profiles—simple computer spreadsheets showing academic progress as well as indicators of social conditions that could affect learning—are used by schools and communities to plan programmes tailored to children's needs. In some villages, for example, day-care centres were set up, freeing older children from child-care responsibilities so they could attend school. By the end of 1997, CHILD had benefited 25 schools catering to 3,000 students from 31 communities.

SAFE MOTHERHOOD

China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand are making progress towards achieving the World Summit goals to reduce maternal mortality; on the other hand, Cambodia, the Lao PDR and Papua New Guinea must make major efforts to reach the targets.

In Indonesia, where an average of 60 women per day still die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, the President in 1997 launched a national safe motherhood movement. As part of this movement, UNICEF assisted a Mother-Friendly Communities initiative, which sensitized local communities to problems that can arise in childbirth and established programmes to provide emergency care to women facing high-risk deliveries. At the same time, many health care services were improved, midwives trained and emergency services upgraded.

HIV/AIDS

In the Mekong area, major epidemics in Cambodia and Myanmar have fuelled others in neighbouring countries. In most countries, there is a pressing need to protect the basic rights of affected people and ensure compassion and care for them within their families and communities.

Transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child is also increasing, especially in Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand. UNICEF is playing a leading role to improve confidential counselling and to provide other support for affected women and children and their families.

Several practical approaches have been taken to strengthen prevention and care. Life skills programmes for children and youth have been introduced in schools and community settings, and youth-friendly services have been incorporated into many health care centres to help prevent and treat sexually transmitted diseases among the young.

◆ In Thailand, UNICEF cooperated with health experts and several UN agencies, as well as with people affected by HIV/AIDS, to produce a video training package used by health and community workers to counsel people living with the disease. The video is being adapted for use in Cambodia, China's Yunan Province, the Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

◆ In Myanmar, Red Cross volunteers, health staff and community members formed AIDS Action Groups and, with support from UNICEF, carried out 'social mapping' studies that enable communities to deliver AIDS prevention services to those people who are most vulnerable.

UNICEF/95-0134/Chaen

In Myanmar, girls carry water that comes from a supply system created with UNICEF assistance.

CHILDREN IN NEED OF SPECIAL PROTECTION

With more children out of school and working or looking for scarce jobs, many countries have stepped up efforts to protect the rights of children in the workforce, in conflict with the law or marginalized by economic and cultural change.

◆ UNICEF cooperated with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Save the Children Fund Alliance and Child Workers of Asia to organize a Regional Conference on the Most Intolerable Forms of Child Labour. A three-day Children's Forum prior to the Conference enabled young workers from Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia and Thailand to share concerns and issues.

◆ In the Philippines, the Government and several non-governmental partners incorporated the Agenda for Action of the 1997 International Conference on Child Labour, held in Oslo, into the guidelines for 1998 work and financial plans.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Putting the malaria ghost to rest

Villagers used to blame the fevers on malevolent ghosts that came out of the forest at night. In one small Lao Thuong village with a population of 300, the fevers would sometimes lead to coma and the deaths of five or six children and adults a year.

Things began to change in 1994, when the village chief, Tong My, and a local member of the Lao Women's Union, Boua Keo, attended a workshop sponsored by health authorities in Kham District and UNICEF.

At the workshop, the two villagers learned that the mysterious fevers were caused by malaria and that the disease, commonly transmitted by mosquitoes, could be largely prevented if villagers slept under bed nets impregnated with insecticide. The workshop participants were shown how to dip bed nets in insecticide and retreat them every six months.

Tong My and Boua Keo brought their new-found knowledge and skills back to their village, helping to set up a bed net project to combat malaria.

The Lao Women's Union took over management of the project, recruiting its local members to sell the nets for $4 apiece and insecticide treatments for a dollar. The Union also started a UNICEF-backed credit system, allowing villagers to spread payments for nets and treatments over six months. To help the project get started, UNICEF provided an initial supply of nets and insecticide.

At the national level, UNICEF supported the country's broad-reaching efforts at malaria prevention with a mass communication campaign. The organization helped train health workers in the use of the pharmaceutical chloroquine to prevent malaria—a disease especially dangerous to infants and pregnant women.

When the malaria prevention programme was launched in Lao PDR in 1994, the disease caused about 14,000 deaths each year, mostly among infants. Only about 18 per cent of people in targeted communities knew how malaria was transmitted; a year later, this figure jumped to 90 per cent. By the end of 1997, the number of malaria cases in remote districts had declined by about 25 per cent, and $32,000 worth of bed nets had been sold.

In 1997, UNICEF joined the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners in launching a global plan to cut malaria deaths by 20 per cent in at least 75 per cent of the worst-affected countries by the year 2000. As a result, for many villagers in Lao PDR and elsewhere, the ghost of malaria may finally be put to rest.

◆ In Viet Nam, UNICEF aided development of a plan of action to protect children from sexual exploitation, drug abuse and child labour, which the Government adopted as a follow-up to the 1996 World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. In addition, the National Assembly revised the criminal code to strengthen sanctions against the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

◆ Indonesia enacted a new Juvenile Justice Law and a new Labour Law with special protection for children, and helped set up an independent group to protect children's rights. UNICEF also funded studies and workshops on harmonizing local laws with the Convention and developing further legislation on child protection, parental responsibility and birth registration.

◆ In Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, UNICEF support enabled youths to interview more than 1,000 of their peers who are unemployed and living on the streets about personal and social issues and to document their participation on video. The results of the survey, which reflect the considerable despair many feel over the future, are being used by UNICEF, civil society organizations and youth groups to develop more effective programmes dealing with issues affecting young people.

◆ In Mongolia, young people living on the streets of the capital, Ulaanbaatar, are mostly from tent settlements lying on the city's perimeter. A UNICEF-supported, non-formal schooling project is helping many young people receive a basic education, vocational training, hot lunches and new clothes. Parents participate in community service activities and gain basic health, nutrition and nurturing skills. In 1997, the programme worked with about 300 households and about 400 children.

Child protection issues will grow as a priority throughout the region, especially where economies continue to be vulnerable.

SOUTH ASIA

HOME TO MORE CHILDREN THAN ANY OTHER region, South Asia faces some of the world's greatest child rights challenges: poverty, malnutrition, child labour and discrimination against girls and women. In collaboration with UNICEF, governments in the region made some inroads into this difficult territory. Political commitment at the highest levels and increased decentralization and local participation in several countries have contributed substantially to the gains made.

NUTRITION: IMPROVING PREVENTION AND CARE

Malnutrition is pervasive in the region. In Bangladesh, over half of under-fives suffer moderate to severe stunting. In areas where iodine deficiency is a problem, many thousands of children suffer mental and physical disabilities. UNICEF assists communities with a range of interrelated programmes, including growth monitoring, encouraging better care for children—especially girls, increasing the nutritional status and education levels of girls and women, promoting breastfeeding and ensuring the availability of key micronutrients such as vitamin A, iron and iodine.

◆ In India, UNICEF and the World Bank assisted the Government in launching a Women and Child Development project in five states, and supported training on combating child malnutrition for 20,000 women in another five. This work supplements UNICEF's long-standing support to the nationwide Integrated Child Development Services programme.

◆ In Sri Lanka, as part of its support to national efforts to improve child nutrition and care, UNICEF provided 500,000 nutrition leaflets, 500,000 handbills on iodine deficiency disorders (IDD), 7,000 iodine-testing kits and 350,000 growth-monitoring charts.

◆ In Bhutan, the fight against iodine deficiency was helped when the Je Khempo, the country's highest religious authority, appealed for increased public support of the national IDD-control programme, which has been assisted by UNICEF.

Bhutan has already made great progress: The goitre rate fell from 64.5 per cent in 1983 to 14 per cent in 1996.

UNICEF/97-0303/Noorani

Women sit counting money to repay their loans, part of a microcredit programme of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), which supports women's small business initiatives.

CHILD HEALTH

Routine immunization programmes were maintained and even expanded, and large-scale campaigns against polio, known as National Immunization Days, took place in every country.

◆ In Sri Lanka, agreements to stop hostilities, resulting in 'Days of Tranquillity', made possible the immunization of 1.5 million children nationwide.

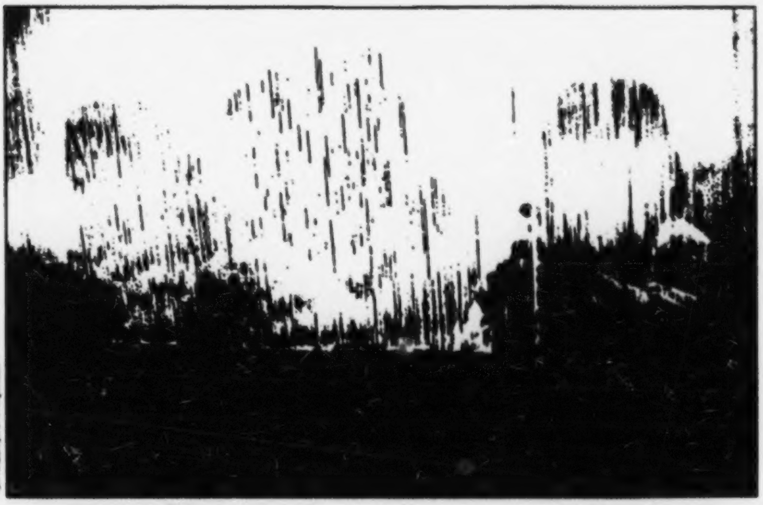
◆ In India, UNICEF worked with WHO, Rotary International and many other national and local organizations to assist the Government's 1996-1997 campaign to immunize 128 million children against polio. Along with this achievement came another for India: zero reported cases of Guinea worm disease in 1997. The region is now virtually free of the affliction.

Several problems have not yet been successfully addressed, including child deaths from diarrhoeal diseases. Recent studies have shown that many parents and caregivers either remain unaware of, or fail to use, the simple and inexpensive oral rehydration therapy (ORT) to prevent dehydration in children suffering from diarrhoea. Accelerated efforts are needed to increase awareness and use of ORT.

◆ In Bangladesh, where ORT was first introduced, only 45 per cent of the population uses the therapy, despite the fact that 95 per cent of the population knows about it. To promote ORT use, UNICEF and the Government of the Netherlands supported the launch of a national campaign in which 50,000 health workers spread ORT messages in village demonstrations.

UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan
India
Maldives
Nepal
Pakistan
Sri Lanka



UNICEF/92-098/[illegible]

Girls work on a carpet loom in Pakistan. Efforts to end child labour have been stepped up in the region.

ENDING CHILD LABOUR

In the developing world, South Asia's working children make up around 60 per cent of the 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 who hold jobs. Taking on work precludes any schooling for many of these children.

Fortunately, political will to end child labour in South Asia is intensifying. In May, for example, Heads of State and Government at the ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), held in Maldives, endorsed a commitment to end hazardous child labour by the year 2000, and all other forms of child labour by 2010.

Many countries are already taking important steps to end child labour and provide basic education to all children, workers included.

◆ By the end of 1997, in Bangladesh, 8,000 of the 10,500 child factory workers identified in a 1995 survey were going to school through projects assisted by UNICEF.

In the capital, Dhaka, UNICEF helped 35 NGOs set up over 2,000 learning centres providing informal schooling each day for 60,750 children working in all occupations, more than half of them girls.

◆ In Nepal, UNICEF and the Nepal Rugmark Foundation formally agreed in February 1997 to provide child workers in the carpet industry with non-formal schooling through local NGOs. By the end of the year, 200 boys and girls had begun such schooling. UNICEF supports the costs of this education as well as the daily operations of the Rugmark offices, staff salaries, training and promotional campaigns.

◆ In India, a similar UNICEF-supported Rugmark initiative has helped loom workers attend school. During the year, UNICEF began working with India's Human Rights Commission to promote compulsory primary education and eliminate child labour.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GIRLS AND WOMEN

In South Asia, discrimination against girls and women is widespread. Bias against girls is evident when boys receive better care, nutrition and access to health services, education and job skills—advantages that carry over into adult life. Discrimination leads to violence against girls and women, and often to death.

A strong preference for sons, combined with other social factors, contributes to the skewed gender ratio in the region. UNICEF-assisted programmes address these issues, aiming to improve the skills, self-confidence and opportunities of girls and women.

In India, for example, a Convergent Community Action programme encourages more women to define their needs and to form community groups to take action. With UNICEF support, 100,000 women from the *panchayat raj* (local government bodies) were trained for greater political involvement. Two new programmes, the Balika Samriddhi Yojana (girls' empowerment plan) and the Kasturba Gandhi Shiksha Yojana (education plan) were introduced in 1997 to promote girls' education in 50 districts with low female literacy rates.

REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY

Discrimination is also evident in the region's high maternal mortality rates, which average 610 deaths of women per 100,000 live births. In several South Asian countries, girls and women have at least a 1-in-10 lifetime risk of dying as a result of pregnancy or childbirth, and many of those who survive suffer lifelong debilitating consequences. In Bangladesh, where an estimated three women die per hour from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, the risk is intensified by assault and other violence, which is implicated in 14 per cent of maternal deaths.

The Safe Motherhood Initiative, supported by UNICEF, WHO and other organizations, aims to ensure that girls and women receive essential care and adequate nutrition and have access to timely emergency interventions when birth complications arise.

◆ In India, safe motherhood now represents the largest component of UNICEF's support for women's health.

◆ In Bangladesh, where UNICEF is helping to improve essential obstetric care, the Prime Minister in 1997 declared 28 May to be Safe Motherhood Day.

◆ In Bhutan, efforts to reduce maternal mortality are going countrywide, based on a national plan of action for safe motherhood that was drawn up at a workshop supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and WHO.

◆ In Pakistan, the first National Forum on Women's Health was held in November to place women's health high on the country's political agenda and to craft concrete actions to reduce Pakistan's maternal mortality rate.

ARMED CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, the 14-year-long conflict between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam currently affects 500,000 children. In 1997, UNICEF supplied nearly 25,000 displaced families with cooking utensils, tarpaulins and other basic supplies; restored classrooms for 8,000 displaced children; and provided more than 200 wells and 2,500 latrines to people in conflict areas.

In Jaffna, a UNICEF-supported landmine-awareness programme reached almost half a million people. The Education for Conflict Resolution project, a major initiative to promote peace through schools, provided training for over 6,000 teachers who used their new skills to bring peace education to 180,000 pupils.

Securing peace is crucial in Sri Lanka, where years of conflict have eroded many of the country's impressive gains in human development.

INDIA

A city fights for children's education

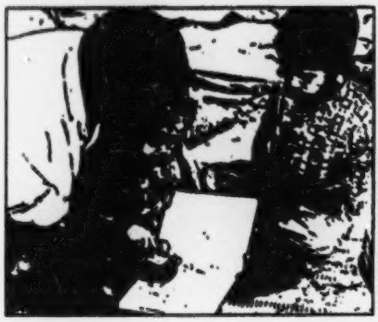
In November 1997, thousands of people marched through the city of Mumbai (formerly Bombay) demanding free and compulsory education for all India's children. These activists represent a broad-based partnership of the city's educators, pre-school instructors, community groups, corporate sponsors and government officials with one aim—to enrol all children in school and help them learn. This five-year-old partnership, known as the Pratham Mumbai Education Initiative, is proving that the collaboration among all parts of society can produce tremendous change.

Helping children to enrol and stay in school is not easy in India. With pre-schools scarce or costly, many youngsters miss the chance to prepare socially and intellectually for the rigours of learning. What's more, children may be ill at ease in the classroom if the teachers are too strict and the lessons poorly presented. These problems, added to those associated with poverty, have created a severe educational barrier for India's children. Nearly one third of them quit school before grade five.

Fortunately, parents and community leaders in Mumbai have been eager to change this situation. Responding to their wishes, UNICEF helped start the Pratham Mumbai Education Initiative in 1993 by bringing together municipal officials with 150 representatives from various communities, including those most marginalized.

Among the enthusiastic participants were business leaders. The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India not only provides major funding for the Initiative but has also persuaded its clients and competitors to join. Other sponsors include British Airways, which donated some of the proceeds from its Change for Good fund-raising campaign for UNICEF. UNICEF has provided initial financial support and training.

A man teaches two children to write in an informal literacy class for children living or working on the streets.



UNICEF/92-0119/Colvey

The first priority was to set up pre-schools, or *balwadis*, in slums and other disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The Initiative chose familiar places for the schools—temples, community centres and homes—and recruited and trained young women from the same local communities to run them. By 1995, 100 *balwadis* had opened. By 1997, the Initiative served 38,000 children in 1,600 pre-schools at minimal cost to families.

Meanwhile, the partnership set about revamping primary schools by introducing Joyful Learning—a programme that features 'learning by doing' and the use of educational games—in 1,256 municipal schools serving 400,000 children. Thanks to this programme, remedial classes now help children who are falling behind, and Little Libraries in slum communities give children the chance to hear a story or borrow a book.

Now the Pratham Initiative aims for passage of Amendment 83, the constitutional reform that would make education for children a fundamental right under Indian law.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SOUTH ASIA

Men pledge an end to violence against girls and women

"I came here a man, and I leave a human being," said Inspector-General Huda of the Bangladesh Police, one of 100 women and men from South Asia who attended a regional meeting, Ending Violence to Women and Girls, held in Kathmandu, October 21-24. The meeting was organized by UNICEF and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), with support from UNDP and the Swiss Development Corporation.

Helping men deepen their sense of humanity and equal rights is vital wherever violence against girls and women is widespread—as it is in South Asia. Throwing acid to disfigure a woman's face warrants its own section of the penal code in Bangladesh. More than 5,000 girls and women are reported killed in India each year because their in-laws consider their dowries inadequate. And a much greater number in the region suffer daily from domestic violence and other forms of abuse.

Children who grow up in violent households are more likely than their peers to suffer from malnourishment, illness, poor school performance and low self-esteem. In their adult lives, they are more likely to resort to violence themselves.

Growing coalitions and various programmes, many assisted by UNICEF, help victims of violence and work to end this vicious circle. For example, in Nepal, free law clinics give advice on dealing with domestic violence and sexual exploitation. In Bangladesh, NGOs operate support groups for victims of facial disfigurement. In India, many families receive support for their daughters' education. In Maldives, a national study of gender violence will help set policy. In Sri Lanka, workshops help police handle cases with greater sensitivity and fairness. In Pakistan, crisis centres provide shelter for abused girls and women. And in all countries, education opportunities for girls are widening.

Participants at the October meeting, who represented a cross-section of society, formulated the 'Kathmandu Commitment', calling for collaborative action to end violence in the family and in society at large. One of the most important contributions to this Commitment came from men:

"We men, realizing that no sustainable change can take place unless we give up the entrenched ideas of superiority, commit ourselves to devising new masculine roles. We shall endeavour to 'take off the armour' and move towards becoming more developed and complete beings."

AFGHANISTAN: IMPROVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS NEEDED

After 19 years of fighting, most of Afghanistan is under the control of the Taliban movement. Since 1995, the Taliban has banned education for girls. UNICEF suspended its support to formal education programmes in Taliban-controlled areas, awaiting improvements in girls' access to schooling. The Taliban also barred women from employment outside the health sector.

The denial of opportunities to work was an especially critical problem for many of the country's estimated 700,000 widows, a sizeable number of whom are family breadwinners.

Restricted access to health care for women has contributed to many problems, including lowered tetanus-immunization coverage among those of childbearing age, from 37 per cent in 1996 to 15 per cent in 1997.

UNICEF's programmes in the north of the country were interrupted as fighting spread to that area, but the organization nevertheless carried on support for projects throughout many other parts of the country:

- Water supply and other services reached internally displaced people in Jalalabad and Herat; a landmine-awareness project reached 60,000 children in Kabul; and support for income-generating activities for nearly 8,000 rural women was maintained in various parts of the country.
- 'Days of Tranquillity' were negotiated with rival groups in April and May of 1997, allowing 3.6 million Afghan children under five to be immunized against polio.

THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN

THE GULF BETWEEN RICH AND POOR IS VAST in this region. Many children live in crowded, mud-floored huts without running water, where rain drips through cracks in the roofs. Still others make a home of the streets. In a child's life, poverty might not mean unhappiness, but it does limit life's opportunities and bring greater vulnerability—to ill health, poor education and exploitation. In Brazil, one of the most unequal societies in the world, children living in the impoverished north-east region are three times more likely to die before age five than are their counterparts in the wealthier south.

Most economies of Latin America and the Caribbean grew at an average of 5 per cent in 1997. Yet because of the enormous differences in incomes and opportunities, few of the benefits trickled down to the poor, who make up 40 per cent of the population. Inequality—measured in income levels and access to social services—provides the main barrier to development and to children's realization of their rights.

A boy fills a container with safe water from a tap outside a health centre near Port-au-Prince. Increasing access to safe water is a UNICEF priority in the region.

UNICEF/94-0785/Toutounji

All UNICEF programmes aim to narrow these inequalities. UNICEF encourages governments to direct more resources to social services and poor communities, opens ways for communities—especially children and women—to participate in their own development, and devotes particular attention to indigenous and Afro-Latin groups, who have suffered centuries of discrimination.

◆ In 1997 in Nicaragua, UNICEF's work in 33 impoverished municipalities brought together governments, civil society groups and communities to benefit some 140,000 people through activities that included training in child rights, upgrading the skills of health workers and the installation of water systems reaching 25,000 people.

IMPROVING CHILDREN'S HEALTH

In November 1997, an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in a remote district in Guatemala caused the deaths of about 30 children. To protect some 22,000 children under five not vaccinated against pertussis and several other diseases, the Government launched an emergency immunization campaign. UNICEF provided essential drugs and supported a door-to-door effort to educate families about immunization. As a result, immunization levels for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio were raised from 12 per cent to 90 per cent of targeted groups in affected areas. In addition, UNICEF and the Government planned an extensive school-based vaccination campaign, to begin in 1998.

The care that sick children receive at home and in health facilities determines their survival, rate of recovery and future health. This care is the focus of a new, holistic approach to coping with childhood illness.

The Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) initiative has been introduced by UNICEF and the WHO/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Latin America and other regions to improve the knowledge and skills of health workers and parents. Rather than concentrating on the treatment of specific diseases, it emphasizes the overall care sick children need—the fact, for instance, that a child with fever needs to drink more fluids. By the end of 1997, IMCI had been piloted in 20 countries around the world.

◆ In Bolivia in 1997, UNICEF assisted with training for 60 trainers and 350 health workers, and helped the country's three main medical schools incorporate the new child-centred strategy into their curricula.

UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:

- Antigua and Barbuda*
- Argentina
- Barbados*
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- British Virgin Islands*
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominica*
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Grenada*
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Montserrat*
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saint Kitts and Nevis*
- Saint Lucia*
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*
- Suriname*
- Trinidad and Tobago*
- Turks and Caicos Islands*
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

* through multi-country programme funds.

UNICEF/95-0462/[illegible]

Boys play on rocks at the water's edge in Havana. UNICEF supports programmes teaching health, hygiene, nutrition and life skills to adolescents.

MATERNAL HEALTH

The World Summit goal on which there has been least progress is the reduction of the number of women dying from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth—estimated at 190 per 100,000 live births in the region. Many factors contribute to this situation: the low status of girls and women, health services that are poorly equipped and hard to reach, and cultural misconceptions about birth—for example, that bleeding during pregnancy is 'normal'.

In rural areas, the nearest doctor or health centre may be days away—reached on foot through a winding mountain trail or by canoe down a river. Not surprisingly, maternal mortality rates are highest among remote indigenous communities, where people may be unwilling to see health workers who speak another language or do not understand the local culture. Among many other efforts to promote safe motherhood, UNICEF assists programmes that make health services more welcoming and increase the family's understanding of women's health needs and rights.

Bolivia's National Insurance for Maternity and Childhood programme, introduced with UNICEF support in 1996, is providing poor families with free access to health care for children under five and for women during pregnancy and childbirth. Within 18 months of its introduction, demand for maternal services doubled, while treatment of pneumonia with medicines supplied by UNICEF increased by about 50 per cent. During 1997, UNICEF assisted with training in health, nutrition, childcare, reproductive health and hygiene for almost 3,000 community volunteers and over 50,000 family members (86 per cent women) from more than 120 municipalities.

BUILDING THE SKILLS OF YOUTH

In the Caribbean, about half of young people under 17 are sexually active, and about a fifth of babies born have adolescent mothers. The Caribbean ranks second to Africa in its HIV-prevalence rate. In 1996, new cases among girls aged 15-19 were six times greater than among boys in the same age group—and these figures imply that the girls were most likely involved with older partners.

Negotiating the difficult territory of adolescence could become easier for young people if they possessed greater self-esteem and awareness of how to solve problems, deal with conflict and think for themselves. UNICEF is working with schools and health authorities in Belize, Costa Rica, Peru and Saint Lucia, among other countries, to provide education in such 'life skills', while also making health information and services more accessible to adolescents.

During 1997, UNICEF helped develop a new adolescent health scheme in the poor Costa Rican town of Rincón Grande de Pavas. Training for 80 health workers and teachers focused on understanding adolescents and their needs, improving their access to appropriate information and adapting prenatal care to the needs of pregnant teens. Young mothers and other young people at the Pavas clinic offer a counselling service for their peers. UNICEF assisted a school-based programme enabling over 1,400 students to participate in discussions about their health rights and to receive information about the new approaches and services available at the clinic.

EDUCATION: REACHING THE UNREACHED

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN: Training in life skills should begin with the very young, whose need for healthy psychosocial development is receiving attention alongside their need for physical nourishment and growth. Many countries have launched early childhood programmes, but Peru stands at the forefront of countries in making care for the young a national priority. In 1997, UNICEF continued working with Peru's national women's organization to establish inexpensive community-based day care designed to foster children's creativity and development. The centres reached 50,000 children during the year. At the same time, UNICEF assisted in the produc-

COLOMBIA

Children kick off a campaign for peace

Colombia witnesses more than 30,000 murders annually and has seen half of all kidnappings in the world. Since 1980, violence has driven more than a million people from their homes—150,000 in 1997 alone. Drug lords, guerrilla groups, paramilitary organizations and armed forces have all been implicated in violent attacks, which in 1997 included more than 50 massacres. Yet along with this conflict has grown enormous popular pressure for peace, inspired by the campaign by Colombia's children for the fulfilment of their rights.

In 1996, a UNICEF-sponsored election drew almost 3 million young people aged 8 to 18 to the polls, where they voted solidly for peace alongside rights to be protected and cared for. This Mandate of Children for Peace and Rights, taken up by UNICEF and two local NGOs—Redepaz and Fundación País Libre—grew into a popular mass movement. The movement now draws together more than 400 civil society organizations, among which are scouts, youth groups, churches, women's groups, farmers' associations, businesses, indigenous groups and the media. These organizations have rallied the nation with activities and messages supporting peace. Their efforts won major recognition in October 1997, when 10 million Colombians pledged support for the Children's Mandate in regional elections.

The elections proved to be a watershed event. The President announced a ban on recruitment of children under age 18 by the armed forces, and he challenged guerrilla groups to follow suit. Paramilitary organizations also pledged support for the peace movement, and the guerrilla group FARC issued a statement acknowledging the "massive expression of the people for peace." In addition, many municipalities declared themselves to be 'zones of peace', uniting different groups behind the cause.

In recognition of this remarkable progress, the children of Colombia have been nominated for the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize.

Like Colombia, Mexico has recently held elections for children. In 1997, these elections provided nearly 4 million children with an opportunity to vote for their rights.

UNICEF/97-0226/Mexico

tion of educational materials for non-formal preschools across the country, benefiting about 360,000 girls and boys.

REMOTE COMMUNITIES: In Guatemala during 1997, 1,000 community schools offering basic education to 60,000 students opened in rural areas with support from a multi-agency group that included UNICEF. Many of the schools had been rehabilitated following damage during years of armed conflict. The schools are managed partly by parents, who select teachers and administer salaries provided through a national social compensation fund set up to reduce poverty.

CHILD LABOURERS: Most children in the region go to school, but about 16 million aged 5 to 14 are working on farms, factories, on the streets or providing childcare at home. Forty per cent of these children have abandoned education altogether.

In preparation for the Oslo child labour conference, UNICEF helped mobilize support from governments and the public in the region to fight exploitive child labour that denies children their right to education.

In Brazil, partly as a result of these efforts, a mass movement comprising trade unions, private companies and many municipalities adopted child labour eradication projects. In addition, Congress approved two bills making the forced labour of children under 18 a criminal offence, and the Government launched a 'No Child out of School' campaign, which, with UNICEF support, should help bring 2.7 million working children into primary schools.

ALLIANCES FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Given the enormous inequalities in the region, advocating for the rights of children can become politically charged. Yet these efforts have also led to the formation of powerful alliances between UNICEF and other international agencies, key politicians, local children's organizations and the media. Navigating this territory presents new challenges for UNICEF.

With the support of these alliances, UNICEF helped 10 countries in the region revise laws, known as Codes for Children and Adolescents, in ways that invited public participation. In 1997, an election year in Costa Rica, UNICEF played a pivotal role in forming a broad, non-partisan alliance that helped steer the country's new revised Code through Congress with the support of all major political parties.

Colombia's proposed Code for Children and Adolescents, however, contained many elements unfavourable to child rights. UNICEF joined an alliance of civil society groups and politicians to help stop the Code from being railroaded through Congress.

As a result, the Code will now become subject to public scrutiny, and its passage will require broad support. This is one of many examples where UNICEF—non-partisan at all times—maintained good relations with a government while criticizing its policies in order to defend children's rights.

◆ In Peru, UNICEF worked with the Congressional Commission for Women's Issues, helping to bring about the repeal of article 178 of the Penal Code, a legal provision that absolved a rapist of any punishment if he later married his victim, who was most often a young girl.

◆ In Mexico, UNICEF worked with the Federal Electoral Institute to sponsor a children's vote during the 1997 national elections. Almost 4 million children aged 6 to 12 took part, and identified their right to education as their most pressing concern.

THE ANDES

Small communities make great strides

UNICEF/C-104/14/

An indigenous family travels a steep mountain path in Ecuador, one of five countries benefiting from PROANDES.

Sanitation education is transformed into slapstick comedy on the stage of the travelling theatre, Caravan of Life. An actor attempts to dispose of a bucket of waste by tossing it at the audience. He stops in the nick of time. He tries to give it to an old woman who shrinks away in horror. Finally, he pours the waste into an imaginary pit. The audience, from the Ecuadorian village of Chisulchi, laughs and cheers him on.

Until recently, the Andean Mountain village of Chisulchi (population 365) was in decline due to poverty and low investment in social services and development. Yet the vitality of Quechua culture, based on a deep respect for the environment and close community ties, continued to thrive. Building on such traditions, PROANDES (officially, the UNICEF Programme for the Andean Region, which promotes basic services to reduce poverty) in 1992 began helping the community turn the tide of decline.

Assisted and trained by Jatarishan, a UNICEF-backed civil society organization operating in 30 villages in Cotopaxi Province, Chisulchi's people identified access to safe drinking water as their first priority and built a village-wide water system using their own land, labour, tools and management skills.

Organizing these activities in Chisulchi, and villages throughout Cotopaxi, was a provincial committee representing a cross-section of society. UNICEF set up this committee and supported its various activities: training for village health workers; training for teachers in bilingual education; radio programmes that reinforce development messages; and performances by the Caravan of Life.

Similar activities in thousands of impoverished indigenous and Afro-Latin villages have benefited more than a million people in the five Andean nations of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Achievements include significant improvements in child health, immunization and nutrition. Activities have raised school enrolment and helped more than 13,000 villagers, mostly women, learn to read and write. Through PROANDES, over 800,000 people have obtained access to safe drinking water. And hundreds of key people working with local governments and civil society organizations have been trained to manage programmes for children in cooperation with communities.

In 1997, PROANDES completed a second five-year phase on a $33 million budget, met by the Spanish Committee for UNICEF, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Governments of Belgium, Canada and Sweden. With further funding, the third phase, launched in 1998, will continue promoting culturally sensitive and lasting solutions to Andean poverty.

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CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES, AND BALTIC STATES

THE TRANSITION TO MARKET ECONOMIES plunged countries into economic and political insecurity, bringing a dramatic drop in production alongside a disintegration of the social infrastructure, including safety nets.

These conditions have contributed to growing poverty and unemployment, the breakdown of family life and an increase in domestic violence as well as drug and alcohol abuse. Also on the rise is the number of children abandoned, institutionalized or living or working on the streets.

Although positive economic growth resumed in many countries following years of stagnation or decline, disparities between rich and poor continue to widen.

Several factors have affected children's well-being since the transition: overt social and ethnic tensions; poverty-related diseases; high drop-out and truancy rates among schoolchildren; and the growing international trade in drugs and commercial sex.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Largely because the State has cut back on social services, citizens' access to health care has been reduced, especially for those unable to pay for services. As a result of these and other factors, pronounced differences in health status have arisen among various groups in society.

High on the list of health problems affecting women and children are an upsurge in sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, which has reached epidemic proportions in Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine; deficiencies of micronutrients such as iron, iodine and vitamins C and D; and large numbers of maternal deaths. Making matters worse is a paucity of data on adolescents, who are virtually unaccounted for in health care systems.

The first regional health strategy meeting, which took place in May 1997, identified these areas for priority attention alongside health care reform and ensuring equity of access for all people, especially those from disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

YOUTH HEALTH

To address urgent adolescent health and development issues such as HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide and crime, several initiatives were begun in 1997:

◆ In Ukraine, a Young People's Development Programme was launched in June to promote 'youth-friendly' clinics and HIV/AIDS prevention projects in schools and health centres.

◆ In the Russian Federation, UNICEF helped bring together all crucial partners in HIV/AIDS prevention to plan a programme involving education, information and communication.

◆ In Croatia, UNICEF worked with its partners to initiate education and awareness-raising activities in which 6,000 adolescents took part during the year. In November the organization published *Do Not Die of Ignorance*, an HIV/AIDS manual produced with the participation of young people.

MICRONUTRIENTS

The transition led to a discontinuation of state-run programmes to prevent and control iodine deficiency disorders and to an increase in goitre prevalence. As a result of recent efforts, virtually all salt has been iodized in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and steady progress has been made in other countries.

In November 1997, a breakthrough was made when participants at a UNICEF-sponsored meeting of directors, plant managers and technicians—representing the entire salt industry in

UNICEF-ASSISTED PROGRAMMES IN:

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus*
Bosnia and
  Herzegovina
Bulgaria*
Croatia**
Czech Republic*
Estonia*
Georgia
Hungary*
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia*
Lithuania*
Poland*
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation*
Slovakia*
Tajikistan
The former Yugoslav
  Rep. of Macedonia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Ukraine*
Uzbekistan
Yugoslavia**

* through multi-country programmes.
** through supplementary funds.

In Georgia, a boy shows where he has been vaccinated. The region again enjoys high immunization coverage.

UNICEF/97-0767/[illegible]

AZERBAIJAN

Teens run a thriving courier service

At 16, Shamil Mamedov had no place to go. For years, his world had revolved around the Azerbaijan state orphanage where he grew up. Lacking job skills and money for school, Shamil faced what he called "a sombre scenario."

Today, the 17-year-old is going places. He's going by moped all over Baku, the capital, employed as a courier for the city's Youth Azeri Parcel Service. The non-profit service was formed in July 1997 with the support of the Government and several of the country's businesses, which enthusiastically joined the UNICEF-initiated project. The service is run by teenagers, ages 17 and up. Its 30 drivers grew up as orphans, many of them former residents of state institutions. Wearing yellow vests and helmets, the youths steer mopeds, mini-vans and bicycles around the city to deliver mail and parcels to 60 business clients. Their work is overseen by dispatchers and office managers—all of them disabled youth. Depending on their jobs, the young men and women in the service receive up to three months of training in English, moped driving and repair, customer relations, computer proficiency, radio communications and office management.

These teenagers know how to run a business. In the first four months of operations, they made 17,000 deliveries—double the volume projected—and turned a profit a year earlier than forecast.

Some of the project's earnings will eventually fund ChildHelp Line, launched alongside the courier service. Run and staffed by disabled young people trained in counselling skills, the telephone SOS line provides a sympathetic ear and practical guidance to callers, who are also mostly young people. By the end of 1997, the hotline had handled 10,000 calls dealing with many problems—violence, drug abuse, family matters, depression and suicide.

UNICEF/97-0601/[illegible]

A teenage courier with the Youth Azeri Parcel Service sits on his moped in Baku.

The Azerbaijan International Operating Company, an oil consortium of 11 international companies, gave $41,000 to start both projects. The Government of the Netherlands donated $150,000. Shell Oil Company and the United Nations Voluntary Fund have also contributed. These funds are giving a head start to young people who might otherwise have ended up on the streets or become entirely dependent on public care.

"The greatest event in my life was receiving my first pay," says Shamil, who spent some of the money on gifts for children back at his orphanage.

Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine—agreed to iodize all salt supplies.

Iron deficiency is also widespread. In 1997, the Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan tested information and training materials for the Anaemia Prevention and Control Programme, to be launched in 1998, which will promote education, research, food fortification and iron supplementation for children, adolescents and women.

SAFE MOTHERHOOD

To combat rises in infant and maternal deaths, new initiatives were launched in 1997, including the Maternal and Child Health Forum in the Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan, the National Five-Year Perinatal Care Programme in the Republic of Moldova and the UNICEF/UNFPA Safe Motherhood Programme in Romania.

EXPANDING IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE

The region once again enjoys high immunization coverage after a period of decline. Since 1995, UNICEF has been working with WHO and other partners to contain endemic polio in 16 countries and diphtheria epidemics in all 15 Newly Independent States. These efforts have resulted in a drop in the number of cases of the two diseases. The number of reported polio cases, for example, plunged from 373 in 1990 to 6 in 1997, and from 105 affected districts to 1.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

To help sustain progress in immunization, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in 1994 signed a Vaccine Independence Initiative agreement with UNICEF and the Government of Japan, consenting to allocate progressively larger amounts of hard currency resources to national vaccine supplies, achieving full national responsibility for those supplies by the year 2000. All three countries are on track to achieve this goal. Models for vaccine self-sufficiency are being developed by other countries as well.

HEALTH SECTOR REFORM

UNICEF has also assisted health sector reform, which is urgently needed in the region. In Azerbaijan, primary health care reform launched in 1994 has made progress towards assuring equity, affordability and universal coverage. Reforms have introduced new management and financing mechanisms, which ensure free services for the poor, pregnant women and children and give the health centres' chief doctors new responsibilities for management and finance. Community councils have been set up to provide links with health centres and identify those in need of free services. Similar projects have been planned for Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

EDUCATION

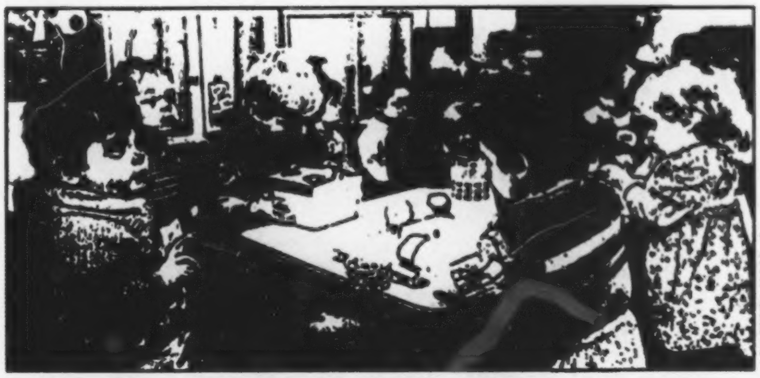
Schooling is marked by wide disparities in enrolment and completion. At the low end of the scale are children from several ethnic minorities, war-affected families, and poorer families unable to meet the rising costs of education.

Also disadvantaged are children in rural areas, where school quality has suffered from shrinking local resources. Many schools in the region are in serious disrepair. In addition to lacking basic supplies, they have inadequate heat, electricity, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. Teachers generally receive low pay, which is often delayed. Moreover, they have few opportunities to receive training. As a result of these and other problems, the quality of education has suffered, and student enrolment and attendance has decreased.

UNICEF and its partners have developed strategies to ensure that basic learning needs are met and more sustainable education systems developed. For example:

◆ In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNICEF assisted the development of an interactive learning programme for pre-schools and primary schools that incorporates awareness-raising activities about the environment, health and child rights. The programme had reached 44 schools by the end of 1997 and will expand in 1998.

◆ In Romania, UNICEF-assisted kindergartens promote early childhood care and development through methods that encourage student participation, self-reliance and creativity, as well as the active involvement of parents. The centres had reached 24,000 children in 20 counties by the end of 1997.


UNICEF/92-025/Nesbitt

Children play at a crèche in Bucharest, where a UNICEF-assisted project encourages creative activity in pre-schools.

◆ In Turkey, UNICEF continued its cooperation with the World Bank on the rural component of the Basic Education Pilot Project. It also supported in May a national symposium on early childhood education and pre-school education and organized a comprehensive education analysis (CEA) workshop for policy makers.

◆ In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, UNICEF sponsored landmine-awareness kits, which were distributed to every school.

CHILDREN IN PUBLIC CARE

One carry-over from the Soviet era is the vast number of poor, disabled and maladjusted children placed in state institutions and typically given inadequate care. During the year, UNICEF worked with governments to establish foster care and adoption alternatives to institutionalization and to strengthen the ability of families to care for their children in times of crisis.

For example, in Romania, where the abandonment of children to public care remains widespread, UNICEF organized a conference in May that brought together professionals and policy makers from 11 countries in the region as well as experts from Western Europe to discuss ways to protect the rights of children living in settings outside the home.

Twenty children from Romania's state resi-

UKRAINE

Young people join fight against AIDS

"First you just get high, but then this stuff becomes a part of your being. I'd been using drugs since I was nine years old."

The teenager who wrote these words managed to quit using intravenous drugs with the help of a UNICEF-assisted outreach post in the city of Odessa. His story forms part of the 'Book of Wishes', reflections on life written by former drug users and put together by staff at the post.

Since the break-up of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has witnessed a surge in intravenous drug use as well as in prostitution, homelessness and other serious social problems among children and youth. These problems contribute to the country's soaring HIV/AIDS rate, estimated to be one of the fastest-growing in the world.

In Odessa, a major port city, 90 per cent of drug users are below age 30, and as many as 20,000 children live on the streets in the summer months. Fortunately, a broad-based coalition of city residents has begun working with UNICEF to address the growing difficulties faced by young people.

The NGO Faith, Hope and Love, for example, runs three outreach centres that are staffed partly by young people and provide counselling and medical help to 200 children and youth daily. Around 50 young people each day visit the city's first youth club, which opened in November and features a theatre, computers, a video studio and a sports club.

The project Street Children has set up 'islands of trust', where children living and working on the street can receive medical aid, food, clothes and counselling. These children, along with young prostitutes and drug abusers, can also take part in an NGO needle-exchange and information programme run by policewomen.

For health problems, young people receive confidential help and advice at 'youth-friendly' clinics, where services are free or inexpensive. Two of these clinics will receive UNICEF assistance.

And other innovative programmes are on the way, thanks to an independent advisory group, the Forum for Children and Youth, which first met in September. The Forum includes representatives of regional and municipal authorities, 26 NGOs, UNICEF, youth groups, teachers, social workers, health workers and police. In addition to HIV/AIDS, the Forum deals with issues such as juvenile justice and children in institutions and will lobby for strong legislation to protect child rights.

dential units participated in the conference, recommending, among other policies, that closer collaboration be established in institutions between children and staff. In October, UNICEF began to help implement the children's recommendations in six of Romania's residential units.

In 1997, with UNICEF advice, the Government of Romania set up a Department for Child Protection, which aims to regulate the care received by children in residential units, help families in crisis and develop community-based alternatives to institutionalization.

RESPONDING TO CRISES

◆ In Albania, the collapse of the pyramid scheme led to major violence in which more than 1,500 people were killed. UNICEF responded quickly by providing emergency health kits and cold-chain equipment to the Ministry of Health, and by providing assistance to orphans and disabled children.

◆ In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNICEF began a large-scale programme to alleviate the trauma experienced by the many children affected by war. Training in psychosocial counselling was provided to 800 teachers and school psychologists.

◆ In Bulgaria, during its acute economic crisis early in 1997, UNICEF provided polio vaccines and emergency medical supplies to maternity centres, children's institutions and children's hospitals.

MONITORING PROGRESS ON CHILD RIGHTS

UNICEF continued to advocate the reform of social policies and legislation in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

◆ In Lithuania, training manuals on Convention issues were developed and will be used in 1998 in various media workshops.

◆ In Yugoslavia, UNICEF helped establish the Yugoslav Child Rights Centre and launched a series of workshops on the Convention for lawyers, judges, police, social workers, journalists and editors.

In October, for the first time ever, children in Yugoslavia were invited to participate in the mid-term review of the UNICEF country programme. Six graduates of a UNICEF training programme in child rights conducted research and presented their findings and suggestions to government officials and others present at the mid-term review meeting. They suggested that UNICEF encourage greater child participation and step up efforts to raise public awareness about rights, particularly those relating to discrimination against children who are disabled, abused or neglected.

UNICEF's International Child Development Centre (ICDC) in Florence (Italy) continued its monitoring of the social conditions of women and children in the region, and in 1997 brought out the fourth volume in the series 'Children at Risk in Central and Eastern Europe: Perils and Promises'.

COMMUNICATION

UNICEF/97-0933/Noorani

A health educator in Bangladesh uses posters to demonstrate the use of oral rehydration therapy in the treatment of diarrhoea to a group of community women. UNICEF assists programmes that employ a variety of media, both traditional and new, to spread awareness of key issues.

UNICEF WORKS WITH A GROWING CAST of international partners, including broadcasters, video artists, animators, puppeteers, cartoonists, publishers, computer experts and children themselves, through means that often combine both the traditional and the new.

Globalization promises faster and better means of communication, but that comes with a price: growing commercialization of the media, which often reduces opportunities for educational programming. UNICEF works with many groups to ensure that children continue to benefit from high-quality programming and information that is both socially and culturally relevant. Access to such material is a right underscored by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

UNICEF also aims to help children, especially those from disadvantaged families, take advantage of technology that can augment their learning and development. Providing access to computers in schools or community centres, for example, is an important step to link children to the World Wide Web and to help them prepare for a globalized 21st century.

RAISING AWARENESS THROUGH MULTIMEDIA

National Committees for UNICEF are playing a vital role in advancing children's rights by forging links with the media and the public, channelling information through a variety of means. For the media, they provide film and video footage and arrange interviews, press briefings, photo coverage and visits to UNICEF project sites. They also support multimedia interactive exhibitions and displays.

EXHIBIT

Child rights: A new era for children

UNICEF/Dobbins

A panoramic view of the interactive multimedia exhibit on child rights, which opened in New York and Mexico City in 1997 and will tour Latin America and Europe in 1998.

In 1997, UNICEF worked closely with National Committees to draw attention to some of the year's most pressing issues, including the plight of refugees in eastern Congo, the famine in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the international campaign against landmines, and child labour. UNICEF media efforts helped spread awareness of these and other issues affecting children, including civil strife in Albania, malnutrition in Iraq, the kidnapping of children in Uganda *(see panel)*, the global campaign to eradicate polio, the impact of HIV and AIDS and efforts to end female genital mutilation.

The UNICEF multimedia exhibition, 'Child rights: A new era for children', was featured at the International Conference on Child Labour in Oslo and at the National Museum of Anthropology and History in Mexico City, providing an interactive exploration of the child labour issue during Mexico's first elections for children.

Another interactive exhibition, 'In a world with AIDS, children are everyone's responsibility', was produced for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and opened at the United Nations for World AIDS Day, 1 December.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY OF BROADCASTING

From just 200 radio and television stations scattered around the world in 1992, to over 2,000 in 1997, the media partnership known as the International Children's Day of Broadcasting (ICDB) has become a leading force in ensuring high-quality programming for and about children. Through ICDB, celebrated each year on the second Sunday in December, UNICEF encourages broadcasters not only to focus on children's rights but also to include children in producing shows. As a result, many stations set aside time on the Day to air special programmes made by or for children. Broadcasters in more than 100 countries participated in the sixth International Day of Broadcasting on 14 December.

In Kenya, children took control of the nation's Television Network for the entire ICDB weekend, hosting and producing programmes. In the Philippines, President Fidel Ramos officially proclaimed ICDB the country's National Children's Day of Broadcasting. Jordan Radio and Television devoted 14 hours of airtime to children's programming, including a two-hour radio programme produced by children.

ICDB has already helped open new programming opportunities in Armenia, encouraging more broadcasting for children, more involvement of children in suggesting and producing programmes, and in 1997, the creation of AREG Children's News Agency, a UNICEF-supported project providing journalism training for children.

The Namibian Broadcasting Corporation won the 1997 International Council/UNICEF Award for its outstanding contribution to ICDB during the previous year. More than 250 children helped produce the station's nine-hour ICDB Special, which included an interview with Namibian President Sam Nujoma and a satellite-linked show with South Africa opened by President Nelson Mandela.

The winner and the two runners-up, TV Cultura from Brazil and YTV from Canada, were selected from among 35 short-listed ICDB participants by UNICEF and the International Council of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The Award was presented at the International Emmy Awards Gala in New York in November.

UNICEF ON THE INTERNET

UNICEF has moved to take advantage of opportunities presented by the World Wide Web. By the end of 1997, the UNICEF Web site (www.unicef.org) was being accessed by more than 350,000 users each month, up from 100,000 by the end of 1996.

All major UNICEF publications were available in full text on the Internet, supplemented with statistics, information on international conferences, and multimedia resources such as on-line video clips and interactive quizzes for children. The launch of the UNICEF report, *The Progress of Nations 1997*, for example, was supported by an interactive Web site quiz on the issues covered.

By the end of the year, French and Spanish versions of the site had been added, and 10 country offices and 16 National Committees had set up their own Web sites, providing information in more than a dozen languages.

VOICES OF YOUTH ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

Voices of Youth, in its second year on the UNICEF Web site, is an international forum for young people to exchange ideas and information on issues affecting their lives. In 1997, children and youth in 80 countries logged on to 14 on-line discussion areas and message boards and enjoyed new educational and rights-based activities covering topics such as girls' education, children and armed conflicts, HIV/AIDS and urbanization. The site records 250,000 visits each month, a high percentage of them from children and youth in developing countries. In 1997, French and Spanish versions went on-line.

This electronic forum played a major information and communication role at the International Conference on Child Labour, which took place in Oslo in October. At the Conference, messages sent by young people from all over the world were projected onto monitors, including onto projection screens in the plenary session auditorium.

Conference delegates visited the Voices of Youth computer station to exchange views on child labour electronically with young people from 46 countries. Voices of Youth was accessed by over 4,000 users daily at the main site during the Conference.

TELEVISION CO-PRODUCTIONS

In 1997, UNICEF's co-productions included *To Tell a Story*, a 13-part series on children's rights from Canada's TFO-TV Ontario; two sets of globally distributed stories on child rights and on children with HIV/AIDS, from Reuters Television; a children's television news series from NRK (Norwegian television); and a documentary on Liberia's former child soldiers from Danish Television.

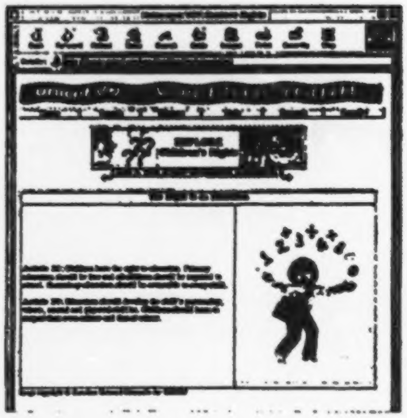
Other co-productions include *Righting Our Future: The right to a name and nationality*, produced with the Canadian UNICEF Committee, the first video in a planned series about the Convention on the Rights of the Child aimed at school children aged 10 to 12; and four TV spots on child labour produced with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

UNICEF continued to build its relationships with the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), the World Alliance of Television for Children (WATCH), Prix Jeunesse International, MIP-TV and the European Broadcasting Union to bring the message of child rights to an ever greater audience. *(See panel, 'Cartoons for children's rights'.)*

WEB SITE

http://www.unicef.org/voy

Voices of Youth, UNICEF's interactive Web site, invites young people to learn about their rights and take action to help fulfil them, all the while joining in with peers on-line to exchange ideas. The site offers three 'places' for individuals, classrooms and educators: the Meeting Place, the Learning Place and the Teachers' Place.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 1998

The devastating impact of malnutrition was the theme of the UNICEF report, *The State of the World's Children 1998*.

The report, based on research by nutrition and health experts, examined the toll of malnutrition on children and society and drew on concrete examples of partnerships and programmes to combat the problem. It outlined the scale of the malnutrition 'silent emergency', linked to nearly 7 million child deaths annually.

At the launch in Paris on 16 December, Executive Director Carol Bellamy said that the mortality rate of children suffering from malnutrition—which contributes to more than half the deaths of children under five in developing countries each year—is "a fatality rate greater than any infectious disease since the Black Death." She also pointed out the range of cost-effective approaches that have helped curb malnutrition, including salt iodization, vitamin A supplementation, support for breastfeeding, improvements in the status of women and community-based efforts to deal with the causes of malnutrition.

Other launch-related events in more than a dozen countries organized by UNICEF National Committees and UNICEF regional and field offices helped generate media interest and coverage around the world, as well as action by NGOs and governments.

THE PROGRESS OF NATIONS 1997

The 1997 report underscored some of the gravest and most intractable problems afflicting the world today, including violence against girls and women, the lack of adequate sanitation in developing countries, the threat of HIV/AIDS to children and the inadequacies of the juvenile justice system in many countries.

The report published troubling statistics on the poor state of sanitation coverage, which leaves half the world's people enduring medieval conditions of waste disposal and risking serious illness or death.

The report also included data on industrialized countries, tracking both trends in aid to developing countries and progress relating to children's issues.

Its coverage of violence against girls and women showed how many millions of women continue to face myriad forms of brutality, fuelled by discrimination against girls and women and by their low status in society.

Published in 18 languages, *The Progress of Nations* provides comparative data on the progress made by countries in achieving the goals set at the 1990 World Summit for Children and in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Progress of Nations was launched in London on 22 July, with related events in more than 15 countries organized by UNICEF National Committees and field offices.

GLOBAL PUBLISHING

CELEBRATIONS!

UNICEF's efforts to reach younger readers were bolstered during the year by partnerships with commercial publishers. Following on the success of *Children Just Like Me*, which has sold 630,000 copies since it was published in 1995, is *Children Just Like Me—Celebrations!* co-published with Dorling Kindersley in 1997. The book uses text and colour photographs to illustrate the favourite festivals, carnivals and feasts of 25 children from around the world. UNICEF receives royalties from the sale of the book, which has already been published in seven languages.

During the year, UNICEF teamed up with Earthscan, from the United Kingdom, to publish *Children's Participation: The theory and practice of involving young citizens in community development and environmental care*. UNICEF also began developing an atlas on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, due to be published late in 1998.

As an antidote to current development pessimism, *Development with a Human Face*, co-published with Oxford University Press in 1997, traces the progress of 10 quite different developing countries over the past three to four decades, showing how they achieved significant social development despite uneven economic progress.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY: THE INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The International Child Development Centre (ICDC), the organization's research arm in Florence (Italy), launched the *Innocenti Digest*, a new series of publications designed to provide accessible information on critical child rights issues. The first publication explored the work of ombudspersons monitoring the rights of children and was followed by an issue on children and violence.

The Centre produced 26 publications during the year covering child rights concerns. A major study, *Child Poverty and Deprivation in the Industrialized Countries, 1945-1995*, published by Oxford University Press, traced the economic and social forces affecting the well-being of children in some of the world's wealthiest countries.

The Government of Italy covers the Centre's core costs and programmes, with other donors providing support for additional activities.

UGANDA

Spreading the word about child abductions

"I was sleeping in the dormitory," said a 17-year-old schoolgirl in one of Uganda's northern districts, "and they started banging on the door. I knew the rebels had come."

In October 1996, 139 girls were abducted from St. Mary's School in the village of Aboke by members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group that kidnaps children to fill its ranks. After a nun went to the rebels to plead for the girls' release, 109 of them were returned.

Testimonies of those who managed to escape tell a story of children being severely beaten and forced to commit acts of brutality. Girls are commonly assigned to LRA commanders as 'wives'. Such testimonies from stolen children had been collected for some time before the Aboke kidnappings, but the scale of the problem was not well understood until after the incident, when advocacy on behalf of the children sparked widespread attention.

In early 1997, UNICEF began working with local leaders in the worst-affected districts—Apac, Gulu, Kitgum and Lira—to develop a formal information-gathering system. From a database with information on 4,000 abductees so far, it is estimated that a total of 8,000 children, typically aged 12 to 16, have been taken by the LRA since 1994. It is also thought that most of the children are harboured at least temporarily in southern Sudan, and that up to 3,000 of them have escaped.

In March 1997, the testimonies of abducted children were collected in a widely distributed booklet, 'Shattered Innocence', published by UNICEF Uganda and World Vision, an NGO. At the same time, the UNICEF office launched an advocacy campaign targeting decision makers and communities devastated by conflict.

In April, UNICEF Uganda worked with Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to prepare reports on the abductions, which were published in September and followed up with simultaneous press releases in New York, London and Kampala.

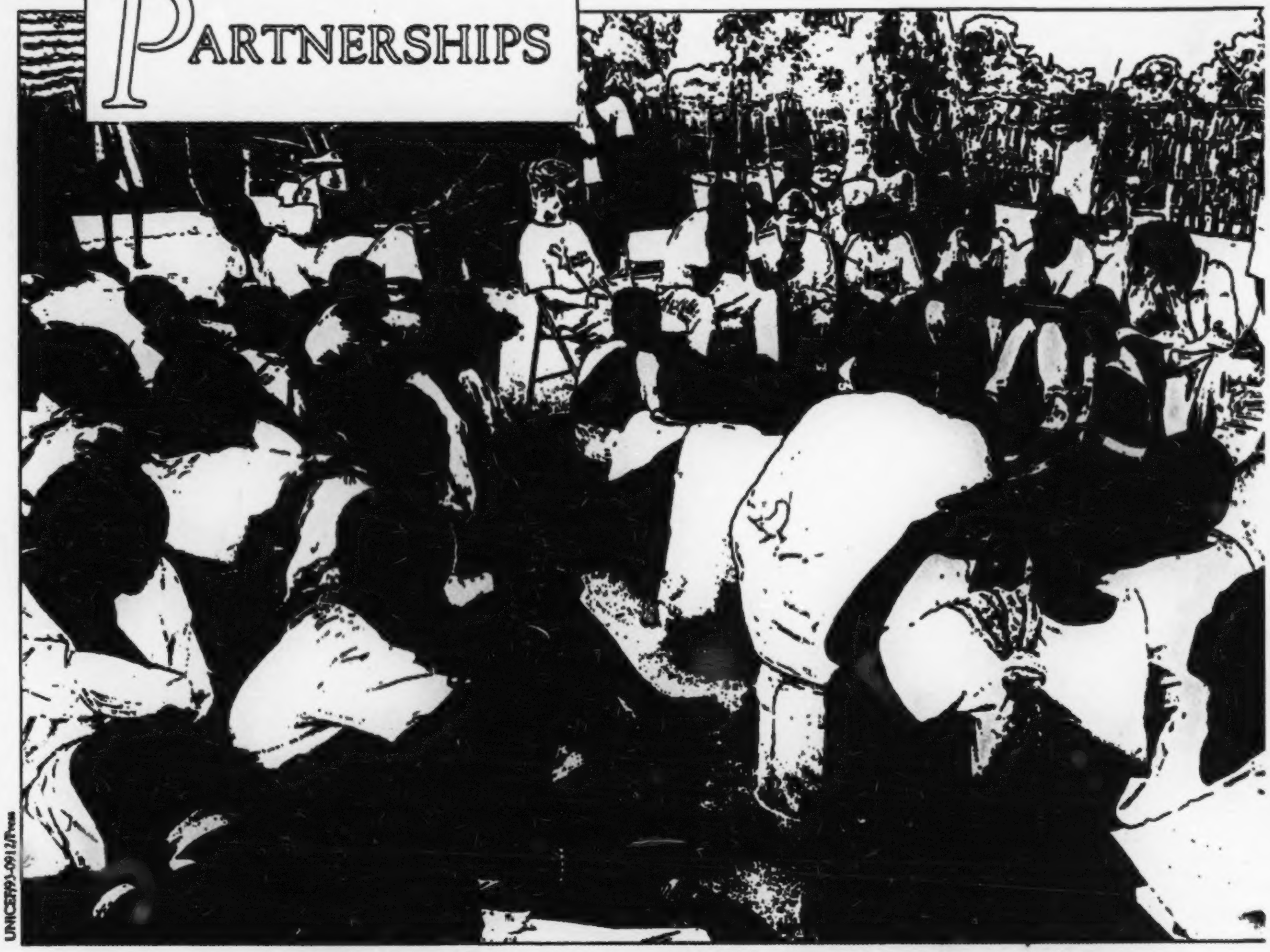
As a result of this advocacy, over 30 prominent newspapers in a dozen countries and 10 television and radio stations in France, the United Kingdom and the United States described the abductions in major feature stories.

Governments and donors responded to the tragedy, and several addressed the underlying cause of armed conflict, which had disrupted life for many people in the northern districts. The Government of Belgium, for example, supported various UNICEF-assisted programmes supplying life-saving interventions and emergency basic services such as health care and water and sanitation. The Netherlands Government supported the establishment of the documentation system.

UNICEF continues its efforts to raise awareness about the children, collaborating with district governments, NGOs and Uganda's Concerned Parents Association. The immediate priorities are to stop the abductions through diplomatic channels and to bring the stolen children home.

"Please do your best to tell the world what is happening to us," said one 15-year-old girl who escaped from the LRA, "so that other children don't have to suffer this violence."

PARTNERSHIPS



UNICEF/93-0912/Press

A meeting at a relief centre run by Concern, one of more than 35 NGOs taking part in Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), the UN-led emergency initiative. In the south, OLS efforts are coordinated by UNICEF and involve NGOs and other groups in bringing aid to people affected by war and famine.

UNICEF NEVER WORKS IN ISOLATION. Partnerships for children are at the heart of the organization's mandate, pooling expertise and resources for the fulfilment of children's rights. These partnerships span a wide range of groups and individuals, and include governments and intergovernmental agencies, UN organizations, National Committees for UNICEF, thousands of NGOs and civil society organizations, world-renowned celebrities and hundreds of thousands of volunteers supporting UNICEF's daily activities.

Partnerships not only work for children but also include them as vital participants. Children have become some of the most effective advocates for their rights. Increasingly, children give welcome advice on how various UNICEF-assisted programmes can best suit their needs, often taking an active part in these programmes. Among other activities in 1997, children helped draw up platforms for action at global conferences, participated in children's elections, held press conferences with parliamentarians, helped evaluate UNICEF programmes and managed help hotlines and information centres for peers and community members.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES FOR UNICEF

SET UP IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, National Committees are non-governmental organizations that support the work and goals of UNICEF. Through legal agreements with UNICEF, the National Committees agree to operate within the policies set by UNICEF and to undertake advocacy and fund-raising programmes for the organization.

The National Committees have evolved from small beginnings as volunteer groups rallying seasonally to sell greeting cards and other special products into highly professional partners, proving to be a unique network of organizations involving millions of people around the world in the vital work of improving children's lives.

The 37 National Committees are largely responsible for strong public recognition of UNICEF among the United Nations family of organizations.

Supported by more than 100,000 volunteers, National Committees give a global dimension to UNICEF actions for children in developing countries. While UNICEF programme assistance is targeted for children of the developing world, the advocacy and actions of National Committees in the industrialized world ensure that helping all children is a truly global concern, as called for by the United Nations and the international community.

In 1997, the range of the National Committees' work has been enormous—from providing assistance to poor communities in developing countries to persuading presidents and prime ministers to put children first, and from selling greeting cards to devising new lessons for schoolchildren.

THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

With the assistance of 800 volunteers, the Spanish Committee supported many child rights activities in 1997 through the organization of special programmes in schools and universities and the involvement of local authorities. These activities ranged from the promotion of universal primary education to efforts to end child labour.

The Canadian UNICEF Committee featured the child's right to a name and nationality in every aspect of its work. In Israel, the Committee highlighted peace education, organizing an essay-writing project for students, based on the olive tree as a symbol of peace.

The National Committees for UNICEF in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic States not only supported the promotion of the Convention in schools but also advocated the compliance of national legislation with the Convention. The Netherlands Committee raised awareness about children in need of special protection, launching a music compact disc as part of its new primary school kit, 'Kinderen Eerst!' (Children First).

LANDMINE AWARENESS

The Silent Shout

the Silent Shout
helping children learn about landmines
unicef

"Suddenly, there was a big explosion, and something hit me. I fell down and was covered with blood."

This is the story of Phal, one of four maimed children who tell about their horrific landmines accidents in the animated video, *The Silent Shout: Helping Children Learn About Landmines.*

The 10-minute video was produced by UNICEF in 1997.

In Denmark, the National Committee collaborated with Red Barnet (Danish Save the Children) to produce an educational action-pack on child rights. The US Committee, continuing its push for US ratification of the Convention, helped lead the Washington-based Working Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a coalition of national NGOs.

LANDMINES

The National Committees for UNICEF have played a major role in the campaign to ban anti-personnel landmines. Their lobbying during the year contributed to widespread support for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, and on Their Destruction, signed in Ottawa in December by two thirds of the world's nations.

Prior to the Ottawa Conference, the Canadian Committee launched *The Silent Shout*, a short animation video produced by UNICEF on landmines. In Germany, the National Committee focused on this issue in Cambodia, and the newspaper *Berliner Zeitung* launched a major fund-raising appeal for UNICEF-supported mine-awareness programmes there.

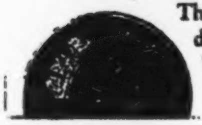
CHILD LABOUR

National Committees were actively involved in the two international conferences on child labour in 1997, which raised awareness of the plight of the 250 million working children in the developing world. The Netherlands Committee coordinated the publicity for the International Conference on the Most Intolerable

CHANGE FOR GOOD

British Airways takes the lead

British Airways takes the lion's share of credit for making Change for Good a success, having raised over $8 million dollars for the programme by the end of 1997—around 45 per cent of the total. The currency donated to UNICEF by British Airways passengers has been put to work on every continent in a variety of ways, from promoting baby-friendly hospitals in China, to helping children living or working on the streets of Brazil, to supporting safe water and environmental sanitation in Nigeria. The year 1997 inaugurated a renewed agreement between the airline and UNICEF that will extend the partnership into the 21st century.



Forms of Child Labour, held in Amsterdam in February. The Committee also gathered 60,000 signatures for a petition advocating the elimination of child labour, which was presented to the Netherlands Minister of Social Welfare.

The Norwegian Committee facilitated the successful work of the International Conference on Child Labour, which took place in Oslo in October.

During the year, most of the National Committees campaigned in various ways for an end to child labour. The German Committee began encouraging private companies to draw up their own codes of conduct on child labour. The Italian Committee linked up with national trade unions to launch a nationwide advocacy and fund-raising campaign for UNICEF programmes in India, Nepal and Pakistan. With support from the British Government, the UK Committee produced leaflets on child labour for distribution to the private sector in Bangladesh, India and the United Kingdom.

Child labour was also the focus of the Halloween fund-raising campaign organized by the US Committee.

EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

National Committees have established strong links with schools through the UNICEF Education for Development initiative. In Australia, an education kit introduced by actor Nicole Kidman, a National Ambassador for the Australian Committee, focused on peace and tolerance as part of the Change for Kids programme.

The French Committee launched the Brikkado campaign in which children in 10,000 primary schools received educational materials on nutrition and collected drink cartons to be recycled into UNICEF giftwrap. In Portugal, primary schools studied UNICEF-assisted education projects in Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, Mozambique and Peru.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

A growing number of National Committees are involving young people in learning about problems affecting children and in supporting UNICEF work worldwide. In the United Kingdom, 14 Members of Parliament visited local schools to discuss key issues such as poverty and child labour with pupils, who were briefed by the UK Committee and given background materials. With help from the National Committee, students in a Luxembourg secondary school launched a campaign to help traumatized children in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Also with help from their country's National Committee, students taking part in the Republic of Korea's school-based 'Global Village Clubs' launched a fund-raising drive for water supply projects in Ethiopia. In the Hong Kong Committee's Young Envoys project, launched in 1996 and supported by Cathay Pacific Airways, young participants studied the needs of children in developing countries and organized a 'Change for Good' day, with volunteers collecting foreign-currency donations from the public at 50 sites.

RAISING FUNDS

National Committees raise millions of dollars each year through the sale of greeting cards and other products. Several of UNICEF's most successful global fund-raising partnerships were initiated by National Committees. Ongoing collaborations with ITT Sheraton and Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts, for example, originated with the UK Committee, which was also responsible for British Airways' support for the UNICEF fund-raising programme, Change for Good. British Airways' passengers and staff have raised over $8 million for UNICEF to date.

The Irish National Committee launched a new Change for Good partnership with Aer Lingus during the year and raised $65,000 in its first three months.

The Italian Committee's collaboration with national trade unions raised over $1 million for programmes to combat child labour. The Japanese Committee for UNICEF, thanks to its high visibility in the country, played a crucial role in ensuring continuous financial support from the Government for UNICEF programmes.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNICEF RELIES ON NGOS TO RAISE BOTH funds and awareness at the global level and to manage and implement programmes locally. NGOs are a key link between governments and communities, and they often play a crucial role in rallying civil society behind the cause of child rights.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Alongside the work of UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International's PolioPlus programme has played a major role in the global campaign to eradicate polio. Rotary Clubs across the world raise funds, help organize immunization drives and mobilize public support at every level. This year alone, Rotary International pledged over $9 million to UNICEF, with funds going to a dozen countries. Rotary also helped obtain a donation of oral polio vaccine for use in Yemen from the Connaught Company and encouraged funding for immunization activities by other organizations.

KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

Through its Worldwide Service Project, Kiwanis International is a strong partner in the global effort to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) by the year 2000. Since the project was launched in 1994, Kiwanis International has worked with National Committees to raise over $28 million in gifts and pledges and has channelled $12 million—$5 million in 1997 alone—to UNICEF-assisted IDD projects. These funds are now being put to work in over 60 countries.

LIONS CLUBS

The Lions Clubs of East Africa have adopted the issue of children living or working on the streets as their focus for 1997 and 1998. Over 2,400 members across the region, many of them key representatives of the private sector, are working with UNICEF to raise funds for these children in need of special protection.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL

Zonta International, a worldwide service organization of business and professional people, provided $225,000 to support the UNICEF-assisted Girls Education Project in South Africa throughout 1997. This collaboration is part of Zonta's worldwide campaign to eradicate violence against girls and women.

NGO COMMITTEE ON UNICEF

The UNICEF NGO Committee, which includes representatives of more than 100 organizations, acts as a liaison with NGOs around the world. In 1997, the Committee's Working Group on Children in Armed Conflict advocated for adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which would raise to 18 the legal minimum age for recruitment into the armed services.

The Committee's International Network for Girls has gathered nearly 250 NGO members in 87 countries. In 1997, the network released a report detailing progress on the commitments made to girls in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing.

UNICEF/97-0293/Noorani

At a factory in Bangladesh, a man tests a handful of salt for iodine content. Iodization is one of the key strategies for eliminating iodine deficiency disorders worldwide.

UNICEF/[illegible]

Violinist Maxim Vengerov, UNICEF Honorary Envoy for Music, meets with young musicians during a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

GOODWILL AMBASSADORS AND CELEBRITIES

IN 1953, DANNY KAYE BEGAN TO TRAVEL THE world to meet with politicians and villagers, international leaders and children, on behalf of UNICEF. Today, a global team of Goodwill Ambassadors, Special Representatives and other celebrity supporters are following in his footsteps.

In June, Harry Belafonte received a personal commendation from United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and a silver statuette from UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy in recognition of his 10 years of service to children as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. Mr. Belafonte joined the ranks of Sir Peter Ustinov, Liv Ullmann and Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, all of whom have worked with UNICEF for more than 10 years. Mr. Belafonte supported the work of National Committees in Canada, Finland and Sweden during the year and joined singer Nana Mouskouri for a gala concert in Chicago in February, organized by the US Committee.

NEW PARTNERS

In April, Liberian soccer legend George Weah was named Special Representative for Sports. In June, he visited his home country to take part in a football clinic for children and to publicize an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, before visiting HIV/AIDS-related health projects in Ghana.

In July, the renowned Siberian-born violinist Maxim Vengerov was named Honorary Envoy for Music and spent a day with a group of gifted young violinists in East Harlem, New York. In October, he was in Chicago, where he gave a master class for children and an informal recital at a fund-raising event. His first UNICEF field visit was to Bosnia and Herzegovina in December and included a concert with the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra.

RAISING FUNDS AND AWARENESS

Through television fund-raising appeals to the Japanese public, Goodwill Ambassador Tetsuko Kuroyanagi has brought in more than $20 million for the UNICEF programmes she has visited since 1984. In addition to raising funds, Ms. Kuroyanagi makes contributions to UNICEF from the royalties she receives from the sale of her popular book, *Totto-chan*, which has been translated into many languages.

On her 14th field mission in as many years, Ms. Kuroyanagi visited UNICEF-assisted projects in Mauritania, accompanied by a Japanese television crew.

Jane Seymour, Special Representative for the Performing Arts, visited El Salvador in February on her first field mission, meeting hundreds of young fans of her successful television series, *Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman*. International Spokesperson Vendela Thommessen made a strong contribution to the International Conference on Child Labour in October, after having travelled to Bangladesh and India in March to visit UNICEF-assisted health and education projects.

Olympic speed-skating gold medallist Johann Olav Koss, Special Representative for Sports, made his second visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina for UNICEF in July and appeared in a Canon-sponsored UNICEF advertisement in *Time* and *Fortune* magazines and the *International Herald Tribune*. Judy Collins, Special Representative for the Performing Arts, also returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in September, and made trips to Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. During the visits, she promoted the landmine-awareness programme she has championed since her first visit to the area in 1995.

In the United Kingdom, Goodwill Ambassador Sir Peter Ustinov promoted National Committee activities while performing his travelling one-man show, and Lord Richard Attenborough lent strong support to several of the UK Committee's major fund-raising initiatives. Special Representative for the Performing Arts Vanessa Redgrave also supported National Committee activities as she travelled for several film roles, and she continued to support initiatives for the children of the countries of former Yugoslavia.

Julio Iglesias, Special Representative for the Performing Arts, donated the entire receipts from one Florida concert to the US Committee. Leon Lai, Special Representative to Youth, supported the Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF, prepared a video for Cathay Pacific Airways' Change for Good programme and undertook a field mission to China to visit development programmes for girls and women.

Roger Moore, Special Representative for the Film Arts, is Honorary Chairman of Kiwanis International's campaign to raise $75 million to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders. In July, he spoke at the Kiwanis international convention in Nashville (USA), and in November, he travelled to Washington, D.C. to brief members of Congress about IDD. Mr. Moore supported the work of the Canadian, German, Swedish and UK Committees during the year and went to Brazil in October to launch the ITT-Sheraton Check Out for Children initiative and to visit programmes for children.

GIFT OF SONG

In December, some of the biggest names on the American entertainment scene assembled at the Beacon Theatre in New York to take part in the second 'Gift of Song: Music for UNICEF', a sequel to the gala event of 10 years ago that earned UNICEF more than $10 million. Broadcast live on television, the concert featured some of the best-known performers of popular music, including Aaliyah, Bryan Adams, Boyz II Men, Mariah Carey, Shawn Colvin, Céline Dion, Wyclef Jean, Salt 'n Pepa, Simply Red, Rod Stewart, Shania Twain and Usher. Messages about the work of UNICEF were presented throughout the concert by film and television personalities, including Kevin Bacon, Levar Burton, Michael Douglas, Sarah Jessica Parker and *Sesame Street*'s Elmo. UNICEF will receive the entire proceeds of the concert.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

DURING 1997, INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS with the private sector raised funds for children's programmes and helped UNICEF reach ever greater audiences with its messages. Now in its second year, Round Up for Children is a successful fund-raising scheme launched by Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts in 1996. This campaign, which invites guests to 'round up' their bills in any amount they wish so that the differences can be donated to UNICEF, raised over $1 million for UNICEF in its first year. It has also created links between UNICEF and Inter-Continental's 40,000 employees in over 70 countries.

Since it started in 1995, ITT-Sheraton's Check Out for Children, launched in 1995, has raised $2 million worldwide for UNICEF by inviting guests to add a dollar or its local-currency equivalent to their hotel bills. In both these campaigns, the hotel chains have brought the work of UNICEF to the attention of hundreds of thousands of guests each year.

Change for Good, UNICEF's foreign-currency collection programme now running on 17 airlines, raised almost $6 million during the year. Aer Lingus, one of the airlines that joined the programme in 1997, conducted an outstanding launch, presided over by actor Liam Neeson, a National Ambassador for the Irish National Committee.

THE WORLD BANK: NEW TRENDS

SECTOR-WIDE PROGRAMMES

THE WAY DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND donors, including the World Bank, enter into partnerships with the governments of developing countries has started to change significantly over the last few years. A shift is gradually occurring away from the project approach and towards the adoption of Sector Investment Programmes (SIPs) and Sector-wide Approaches (SWAPs)—particularly in the health and education sectors.

These programmes are ways of building new partnerships between governments and donors around sectoral development priorities, with a view to strengthening the leadership role of governments. Key features of these integrated sectoral programmes include the coordination or pooling of resources and the harmonization of procedures for procurement and financial reporting. The aim is to reduce aid fragmentation, overcome the shortcomings of the project approach and improve the impact and sustainability of development cooperation.

UNICEF is involved in a number of such programmes, including the health SIPs of Ghana, Zambia and Tanzania and the health and education SWAP of Ethiopia. The approach is compatible with UNICEF's country programme process and programmes of cooperation.

Animation

Cartoons for children's rights

For sheer creativity and visual impact, animation knows no bounds. Its messages reach audiences instantaneously, crossing barriers of culture, race, gender and age. This makes animation shorts—or cartoons—an ideal medium for spreading awareness about child rights.

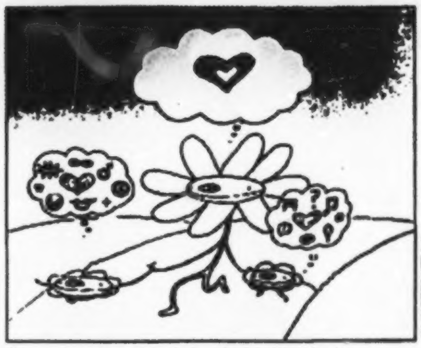
This simple idea has blossomed into an extraordinary partnership between UNICEF and animation studios around the globe—the Cartoons for Children's Rights public service announcement campaign, officially launched in December 1997.

The brainchild of C. J. Kettler, President and chief operating officer of Sunbow Entertainment in New York, the partnership has grown to include 80 animation companies, as well as artists and distributors, in more than 25 countries. Each company has agreed to produce and donate at least one 30-second spot dealing with a provision of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, such as a child's right to protection from armed conflict, to health care, or to a name and nationality. The spots are being offered free of charge to broadcasters around the world through National Committees for UNICEF and UNICEF field offices. Already, 40 broadcasters have signed up to air the cartoons.

CARTOONS FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS !

The Animation Consortium is administered by UNICEF and a steering committee of executives from 14 animation companies. Among the Consortium's 80 members are Aboriginal Nations (Australia), A Film (Denmark), Nicobis (Bolivia), Fil-Cartoons (Philippines), Hahn Films (Germany), National Film Board of Canada, Nickelodeon (USA), Walt Disney Feature Animation (USA) and Warner Brothers Feature Animation (USA).

In 1997, the first distribution reel of 29 spots was produced, and an additional 70 spots are planned for completion by mid-1999, worth $3 million in all. The Cartoon Network—the 24-hour cable service of the US-based Turner Broadcasting System—also donated $75,000, which is being given as grants to animation artists from developing countries.



UNICEF/MTV Animation

An animation spot produced by MTV promotes a child's right to freedom of thought.

The first reel was launched in December at the Walt Disney Feature Animation Studios in Burbank (USA) at a ceremony presided over by actress Jane Curtin along with Disney Features Animation Studios Producer Donald Hahn and UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy. The second reel of approximately 30 spots will be available late in 1998.

PILOTING INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMES

Many large donors and partners look to UNICEF to pilot and field-test innovative development approaches that can then be carried out on a national scale, and they also collaborate with UNICEF to carry such programmes to scale. The success of the UNICEF-assisted rural education programme in Turkey in 1997, for example, was a critical factor in the World Bank's decision to make a multimillion dollar investment for the country's education system.

In Indonesia, a UNICEF investment of $100,000 in early childhood care for child growth and development helped lay the groundwork for a World Bank education loan of $30 million. UNICEF and the World Bank have agreed to strengthen their collaboration at the country level, particularly in the areas of girls' education, water and environmental sanitation, child labour and post-conflict health and education programmes.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

UNICEF HAS HELPED ENSURE THAT CHILD rights are firmly on the agenda of major regional, religious and intergovernmental groups such as the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the World Conference on Religion and Peace.

UNICEF cooperation with the OAU at its June Summit included providing information on child-related issues covered in the Summit's resolutions, such as child labour, malaria control, polio eradication, anti-personnel landmines, children in armed conflict, and the plight of refugees and displaced persons.

UNICEF worked with Francophonie, the global grouping of francophone countries, during its Hanoi Summit, which addressed child-related issues such as child labour, education, conflict prevention and the threat of landmines to children.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentarians for Global Action devoted major attention to the international campaign to ban landmines and to promoting ratification of the Ottawa treaty. At its meeting in Cairo in September, the Union also adopted recommendations for parliamentary action on child labour, the sexual abuse of children and the protection of children in armed conflict.

UN AGENCIES AND PROGRAMMES

THE UNICEF REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE worked with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, other UN organizations, and several NGOs and academics to produce the 680-page *Implementation Handbook for the Convention on the Rights of the Child*, a practical guide that explains the implications of each article of the Convention in detail and shows how States are translating its principles into action.

UNAIDS

Every day, 7,000 young people worldwide—five per minute—become infected with HIV. To stop the growing epidemic of HIV/AIDS, six UN organizations sponsor the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the main advocate for global action. The HIV/AIDS-related research and activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and UNICEF are coordinated and supported by a secretariat based in Geneva.

The six UNAIDS co-sponsors work with governments, civil society and international organizations, communities and people living with HIV/AIDS towards achieving four goals: to reduce the transmission of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases; to improve the quality and accessibility of treatment, and care and support for people with HIV/AIDS; to lessen vulnerability to HIV infection and AIDS; and to diminish the adverse impact of HIV/AIDS on the health, livelihood and well-being of individuals and communities.

In 1997, UNAIDS launched a year-long initiative, 'Children living in a world with AIDS', to draw attention to the devastating impact of the epidemic on the lives of young girls and boys and to promote measures protecting the rights of young people affected by it.

UNITED NATIONS REFORM

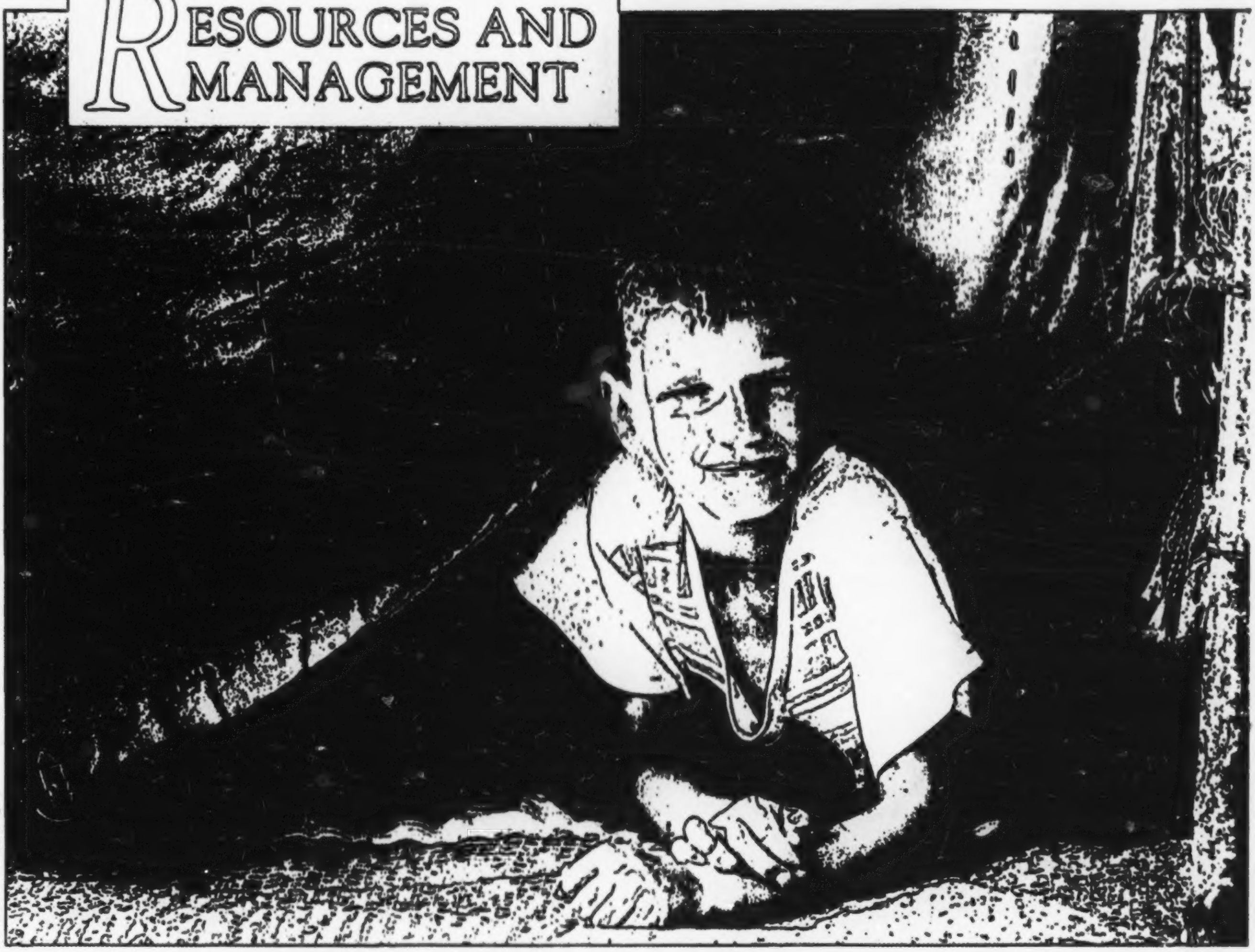
UNICEF has actively participated in the implementation of the United Nations Reform package, introduced by the Secretary-General in July 1997. This wide-ranging programme has transformed the activities of the UN system at headquarters and in the field, through greater collaboration among organizations in areas of particular relevance to UNICEF, including the implementation of programmes, the harmonization of budgets and procedures, the sharing of premises and services in the field, and the response to complex emergencies. The selection of Resident Coordinators in the field, who oversee this collaborative work now relies on a more participatory process than before and draws on a wider pool of candidates from various organizations.

UNICEF is a member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), which is responsible for promoting sustainable development as a central priority of the United Nations. UNDG facilitates cooperation among the UN funds and programmes with development operations. UNICEF serves on the UNDG Executive Committee alongside UNDP and UNFPA. The World Food Programme (WFP) also participates in the Committee in areas relevant to its operations and interests.

UNICEF is also a member of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, which brings together departments and programmes concerned with humanitarian assistance and aims to improve coordination among these bodies. UNDG has absorbed the working groups of the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP). Its Sub-group on Programme Policy, chaired by UNICEF, is developing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The Sub-group on Common Premises and Services is identifying locations for common premises and 'UN Houses' and is developing guidelines for common services.

UNICEF also participates in the work of the UNDG Support Group and the other sub-groups making progress on a number of fronts: improving the selection process of Resident Coordinators; bringing gender issues into the mainstream; and improving staff training. This work has been supported by contributions from the Governments of Sweden and the United Kingdom.

RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT



UNICEF/95-0492/Lemoyne

A boy looks out from a tent at a camp for displaced persons set up in Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina) during the Balkan conflict. To assist children in such camps, UNICEF commonly provides emergency supplies, immunization, schooling and psychological counselling.

UNICEF FINANCES

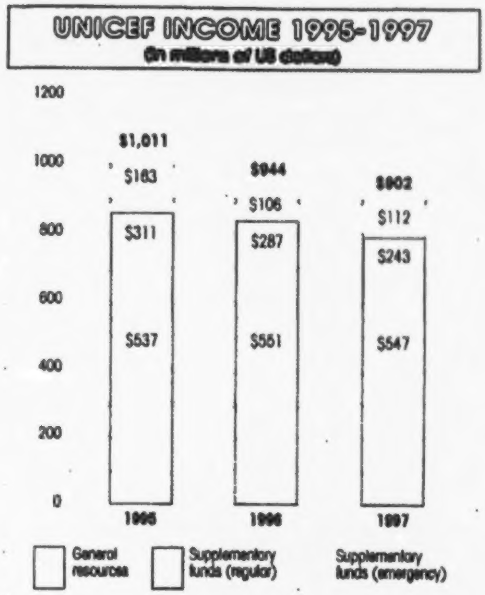
INCOME

UNICEF DERIVES ITS INCOME FROM TWO main sources, both of which give on a voluntary basis: governments and intergovernmental organizations; and non-governmental/private sector sources.

In 1997, contributions from governments/intergovernmental organizations accounted for 66 per cent of total income ($595 million). An additional $284 million (31 per cent) came from non-governmental/private sector sources, while $23 million (3 per cent) came from a variety of other sources *(see pie chart, page 6)*. For estimated governmental and non-governmental/private sector contributions by country, see pages 56 through 59.

Total income for 1997 was $902 million (compared with $944 million for 1996). This included $547 million (61 per cent) for general resources, $243 million (27 per cent) for supplementary funds and $112 million (12 per cent) for emergencies.

General resources are used for UNICEF's cooperative participation in country programmes approved by the Executive Board, as well as for programme support and administrative expenditures. The UNICEF programme budget in each country is allocated according to three criteria: under-five mortality rate (the probability of dying between birth and five years of age, expressed per 1,000 births); income level (GNP per capita); and the size of the child population. The table on page 52 shows the distribution by country.



UNICEF INCOME 1995-1997

(in millions of US dollars)

General resources income includes contributions from 94 governments; net income from the sale of greeting cards; funds contributed by the public (mainly through National Committees); and other income.

UNICEF also seeks supplementary funds contributions from governments, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector to support projects being approved by the Executive Board as extensions of the general resources part of the country programme, or for relief and rehabilitation programmes in emergency situations, which, by their nature, are difficult to predict.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Governments and intergovernmental organizations contributed $595 million of UNICEF's $902 million income in 1997. Eight governments increased their local currency contributions to general resources over 1996. Among intergovernmental agencies, the highest contribution—$18 million—came from the European Union.

The United States increased its total contribution by $22 million over the prior year and remained the largest government donor to UNICEF, providing a total of $165 million. The United States, for years the top contributor to general resources, has now also emerged as the largest donor to supplementary funds. Its general resource contribution has been sustained at $100 million since 1993. The US per capita contribution ranks eleventh among the top 20 government contributors *(see chart, page 53)*.

Sweden continues to be the second largest government donor (with a total contribution of $71 million, of which general resources was $37 million) despite a decline in both its general resources and supplementary funds contributions.

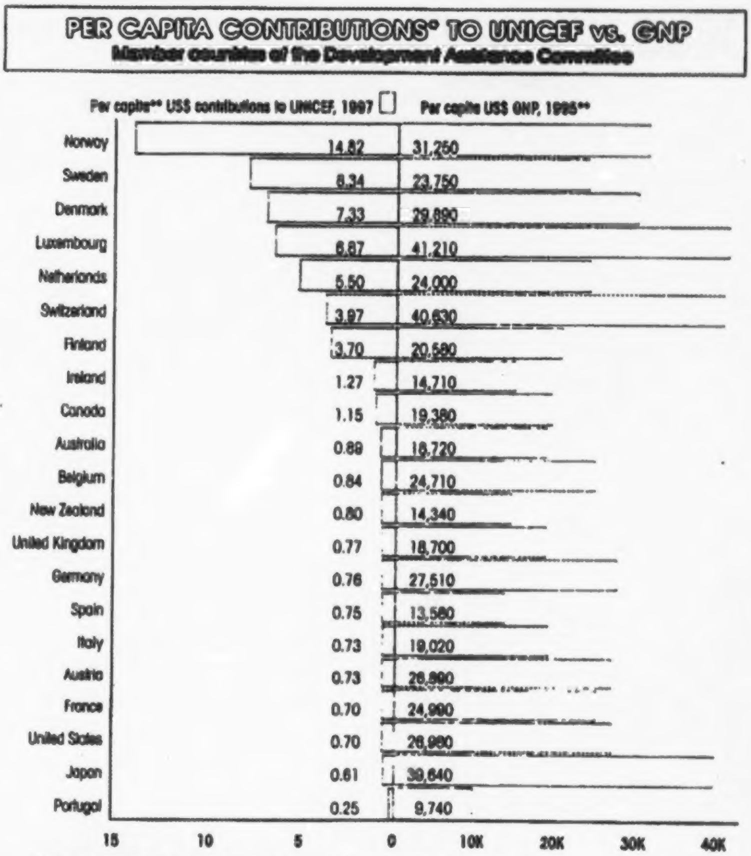
Norway became the third largest government donor, contributing $39 million to general resources out of its total $62 million contribution, while maintaining its position as the largest per capita donor, contributing approximately $14 per person.

The Netherlands, now the fourth largest donor, with a total contribution of $55 million, reduced its supplementary funds contribution by $23 million.

Denmark became the fifth largest government donor, with $26 million in general resources out of a total $36 million contribution.

The United Kingdom increased its total contribution by $5 million over the prior year and became the sixth largest donor, with a total contribution of $35 million.

Japan became the seventh largest government donor with a total of $31 million, a $7 million reduction from 1996.



PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTIONS* TO UNICEF vs. GNP

Member countries of the Development Assistance Committee

* Includes governments, National Committees, NGOs and other contributors.

** Source: 1997 *World Bank Atlas* (1995 data).

PROGRAMMES FUNDED FROM GENERAL RESOURCES

The following country programmes, approved for multi-year periods, are funded from general resources. Other programmes are funded from supplementary funds.

Country	Period	Amount
Afghanistan	1996-1999:	$24,000,000
Albania	1996-2000:	$4,850,000
Algeria	1998-2000:	$2,748,000
Angola	1997-1998:	$5,500,000
Argentina	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Armenia	1995-1999:	$5,000,000
Azerbaijan	1995-1999:	$5,000,000
Bangladesh	1996-2000:	$88,000,000
Belize	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Benin	1994-1998:	$5,500,000
Bhutan	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Bolivia	1998-2002:	$4,480,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1996-1998:	$5,025,000
Botswana	1995-1999:	$5,200,000
Brazil	1994-2000:	$11,900,000
Burkina Faso	1996-2000:	$14,000,000
Burundi	1998-1999:	$2,640,000
Cambodia	1996-2000:	$11,550,000
Cameroon	1998-2002:	$6,500,000
Cape Verde	1995-1999:	$3,750,000
CEE, CIS and Baltic States[1]	1998-1999:	$6,000,000
Central African Rep.	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Chad	1996-2000:	$8,500,000
Chile	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
China	1996-2000:	$100,000,000
Colombia	1993-1998:	$6,050,000
Comoros	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Congo	1997-1998:	$2,000,000
Costa Rica	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Côte d'Ivoire	1997-2001:	$10,250,000
Cuba	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	1994-1998:	$5,000,000
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1998-1999:	$16,144,000
Djibouti	1994-1998:	$3,500,000
Dominican Republic	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
E. Caribbean Islands[2]	1998-2002:	$6,000,000
Ecuador	1994-1998:	$5,000,000
Egypt	1995-2000:	$30,000,000
El Salvador	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Equatorial Guinea	1994-1998:	$3,750,000
Eritrea	1996-2000:	$7,500,000
Ethiopia	1994-1999:	$75,000,000
Gabon	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Gambia	1997-1998:	$1,500,000
Georgia	1996-2000:	$4,850,000
Ghana	1996-2000:	$15,000,000
Guatemala	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Guinea	1997-2001:	$7,400,000
Guinea-Bissau	1998-2002:	$4,500,000
Guyana	1995-1999:	$3,750,000
Haiti	1998-1999:	$2,754,000
Honduras	1996-2000:	$4,850,000
India	1998:	$34,865,000
Indonesia	1995-2000:	$72,000,000
Iran	1998-1999:	$2,700,000
Iraq	1997-1998:	$2,542,000
Jamaica	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Jordan[3]	1998-2002:	$4,250,000
Kazakhstan	1995-1999:	$5,000,000
Kenya	1994-1998:	$22,000,000
Kyrgyzstan	1995-1999:	$5,000,000
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	1998-2002:	$5,265,000
Lebanon[3]	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Lesotho	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Liberia	1997-1998:	$2,000,000
Madagascar	1996-2000:	$15,900,000
Malawi	1997-2001:	$14,750,000
Malaysia	1997-2000:	$3,000,000
Maldives	1994-1998:	$3,750,000
Mali	1998-2002:	$16,605,000
Mauritania	1994-1998:	$5,000,000
Mauritius	1996-2000:	$3,750,000
Mexico	1996-2001:	$6,280,000
Mongolia	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Morocco	1997-2001:	$7,360,000
Mozambique	1994-1998:	$42,000,000
Myanmar	1996-2000:	$32,500,000
Namibia	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Nepal	1997-2001:	$18,400,000
Nicaragua	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Niger	1995-1999:	$12,200,000
Nigeria	1997-2001:	$67,000,000
Oman	1997-2000:	$4,000,000
Pacific Islands[4]	1997-2001:	$7,000,000
Pakistan	1996-1998:	$34,320,000
Panama	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Papua New Guinea	1998-2002:	$4,250,000
Paraguay	1995-1999:	$6,000,000
Peru	1996-2000:	$5,380,000
Philippines	1994-1998:	$22,500,000
Rep. of Moldova	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Romania	1995-1999:	$5,000,000
Rwanda	1998-2000:	$4,860,000
Sao Tome and Principe	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Senegal	1997-2001:	$5,080,000
Sierra Leone	1998-1999:	$2,916,000
Somalia	1997-1998:	$5,000,000
South Africa	1997-2001:	$5,200,000
Sri Lanka	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Sudan	1997-2001:	$19,650,000
Swaziland	1996-2000:	$3,750,000
Syria[3]	1996-2000:	$5,000,000
Tajikistan	1995-1999:	$6,250,000
Tanzania	1997-2001:	$31,720,000
Thailand	1994-1998:	$10,750,000
The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	1996-1998:	$2,175,000
Togo	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Tunisia	1997-2001:	$5,000,000
Turkey	1997-2000:	$4,920,000
Turkmenistan	1995-1999:	$5,000,000
Uganda	1995-2000:	$32,600,000
Uruguay	1997-2001:	$3,750,000
Uzbekistan	1995-1999:	$6,250,000
Venezuela	1998-2002:	$4,250,000
Viet Nam	1996-2000:	$44,000,000
Yemen	1994-1998:	$12,500,000
Zambia	1997-2001:	$10,250,000
Zimbabwe	1995-2000:	$8,400,000

UNICEF cooperated with 161 countries, areas and territories in 1997: 46 in sub-Saharan Africa (ESARO and WCARO); 35 in Latin America and the Caribbean (TACRO); 33 in Asia (EAPRO and ROSA); 20 in the Middle East and North Africa (MENARO); and 27 in Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS), and Baltic States.

Financed from funds for regional activities: in ESARO—Seychelles; in MENARO—Bahrain, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates. Financed from supplementary funding only: Croatia, Yugoslavia.

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[1] Covers Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and Ukraine.

[2] Includes Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

[3] UNICEF is providing assistance for Palestinian children and women for 1998-2000 in the following: Jordan—$400,000; Lebanon—$1,050,000; Syria—$600,000; West Bank and Gaza—$2,550,000.

[4] Includes Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

TOP 20 DONORS TO UNICEF (1997)

Governments	Contributions (in US$ thousands)	Per capita* contribution (in US$)	Committees for UNICEF	Contributions (in US$ thousands)	Per capita* contribution (in US$)
United States	165,097	0.62	Germany	56,025	0.68
Sweden	71,130	8.08	Japan	42,529	0.34
Norway	62,408	14.18	France	31,906	0.55
Netherlands	54,528	3.52	Netherlands	30,360	1.96
Denmark	36,099	6.81	Spain	27,460	0.70
United Kingdom	35,352	0.60	Italy	23,424	0.41
Japan	31,030	0.25	United States	18,321	0.07
Canada	22,348	0.74	Switzerland	12,100	1.70
Italy	18,286	0.32	United Kingdom	9,644	0.16
Finland	14,756	2.89	Canada	7,880	0.26
Switzerland	12,831	1.82	Belgium	4,965	0.49
Australia	12,555	0.69	Hong Kong	4,660	0.74
France	8,867	0.15	Finland	4,133	0.81
Germany	6,401	0.08	Korea, Rep.	3,776	0.08
Ireland	4,070	1.13	Austria	3,566	0.44
Belgium	3,586	0.35	Australia	3,558	0.19
New Zealand	2,623	0.73	Greece	3,410	0.32
Korea, Rep.	2,400	0.05	Sweden	2,492	0.28
Austria	2,295	0.28	Portugal	2,380	0.24
India	1,732	...	Denmark	2,164	0.41

* Population figures based on the *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations*, August 1997 (mid-1996 data).

Although its $22 million contribution—$10 million for general resources—was $7 million less than in 1996, Canada remained the eighth largest government donor.

Italy became the ninth largest government donor, and Finland remained the tenth.

EXPENDITURES

The Executive Director authorizes expenditures to meet recommendations approved by the Board for programme assistance. The pace of expenditure depends on the speed of implementation in any country.

In 1997, UNICEF total expenditures including write-offs amounted to $919 million (compared with $936 million in 1996). Total programme cooperation ($822 million) amounted to 89 per cent of UNICEF's total expenditure. Management and administration of the organization comprised an additional 10 per cent of total expenditure, and write-offs and other charges amounted to 1 per cent. The breakdown of programme expenditure by sector is shown in the chart on this page.

BIENNIAL SUPPORT BUDGET 1998–1999

In January 1998, the Executive Board approved the Biennial Support Budget for 1998–1999. This is a no-growth budget over the 1996–1997 biennium, achieved through efficiency measures and the results of the Management Excellence Change programme.

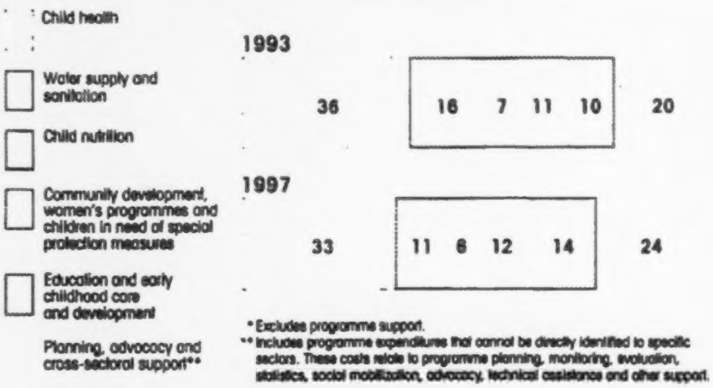
In this budget, the organization has been able to absorb the impact of inflation and add the programme support costs of 25 country offices. Excluding these costs, the Support Budget for 1998–1999 represents a reduction of 6 per cent over the 1996–1997 biennium in real terms.

This Support Budget is the first budget proposed to the Executive Board using the harmonized format agreed upon by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF. It is also the first budget that reflects UNICEF's 'integrated budgeting' approach, linking country programme planning and budgeting through the preparation of the country programme management plan, and continuing the consolidation of different budget sources at headquarters and regional offices.

The Support Budget comprises two categories: (1) programme support, covering country and regional offices and a small segment of headquarters expenditures on programme development and delivery; and (2) management and administration, covering headquarters functions of executive direction, organizational policy, external relations, information, and financial and human resources administration.

The budget for headquarters in 1998–1999 decreased by 8 per cent over the 1996–1997 period in real terms, following a continuing trend of decentralizing and improving work processes. The category of management and administration is estimated to be 8.5 per cent of total resources currently projected for 1998–1999.

UNICEF EXPENDITURE ON PROGRAMMES BY SECTOR* 1993 and 1997 (in percentages)



* Excludes programme support.

** Includes programme expenditures that cannot be directly identified to specific sectors. These costs relate to programme planning, monitoring, evaluation, statistics, social mobilization, advocacy, technical assistance and other support.

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INTERNAL AUDIT

INCREASED RESOURCES WERE ALLOCATED TO this function. During 1997, 39 audits were completed—34 in country offices and 5 at headquarters—up from 30 in 1996.

Audits have incorporated a new approach that identifies risks to reaching programme objectives; evaluates the effectiveness of actions taken by country offices to manage those risks and maximize programme achievements; and notes further actions required. Close monitoring showed that appropriate action had been taken on a high percentage of recommendations from previous audits.

Auditors visited the 10 largest UNICEF field offices, all of which had begun to improve internal controls. Internal auditors worked closely with management in all offices visited to ensure that the concepts of accountability were fully understood, staff training needs identified and oversight enhanced. The goal is to ensure that internal control of the weaker offices is brought up to the standards of the best.

At headquarters, the Office of Internal Audit focused on several key divisions, including Supply and Private Sector divisions.

SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN

IN SEPTEMBER, THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE Board endorsed a new vision for the supply function based on the principle that children must have access to supplies essential for their health and well-being, whether provided by UNICEF or other sources. These supplies include vaccines; safe injection and cold chain equipment; essential drugs; medical products, including prosthetics; water and sanitation facilities and equipment; micronutrients; therapeutic foods; educational materials and textbooks; and household products, such as bed nets impregnated with insecticide for protection against malaria.

UNICEF has begun its expanded role of assessing, and advocating for, the availability of these essentials, which will continue to be provided, where necessary, through country programmes of cooperation or as a procurement service to governments and other development partners.

Supply Division has set four new strategies for the next five years: (1) achieving greater integration with programme operations to make supply consistent with the goals and objectives of cooperation with countries; (2) developing a worldwide supply structure based on decentralization to regions and countries and establishing regional procurement centres; (3) transforming the Supply Division into a world-class operation with higher levels of efficiency, quality and customer service; and (4) creating a knowledge centre on essential children's supplies.

To implement this strategy, Supply Division reorganized into nine functional centres. Staff have been reallocated and trained, communication with UNICEF field offices and external customers increased, bottlenecks identified and dealt with, partnerships expanded and productivity increased.

In addition, the warehouse inventory level has been reduced and turnover increased. Evaluation and performance-monitoring of all suppliers have been instituted.

Supply Division filled more orders in 1997 than in the previous year.

PRIVATE SECTOR DIVISION

THE YEAR BROUGHT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES to UNICEF's Private Sector Division (formerly Greeting Card and Related Operations or GCO). Using the 1996 Coopers & Lybrand Study of UNICEF greeting cards and products as a springboard, the Division began to adopt the best industry practices by focusing on key markets and streamlining operations. As part of its work to revitalize its market and customer orientation, Private Sector Division (PSD) will focus its attention and investment programmes on key National Committee markets. Beginning next year, the Division will scale its activity in other markets to accord with their potential and profitability.

PSD has also begun an internal restructuring, to be completed in 1998, which will result in the reduction of 17 posts overall. Meanwhile, the Division is working to maximize scarce human and financial resources.

These measures were necessitated by a decline in income in 1997. While 1996 income generated from the private sector showed an increase over previous years, 1997 income, both for card and product sales and for private sector fund-raising, was adversely affected by the unfavourable economic climate in many countries, as well as by the strong US dollar.

By adopting these measures, the Division is also responding to the pressures of an increasingly competitive environment in which NGOs and former public-sales partners are adopting more aggressive and commercial tactics and policies. PSD is responding by introducing new product lines, reducing the time required from product development to delivery and creating brochures for younger audiences. The Division is also pilot-testing other programmes aimed at enhancing market reach, distribution and sales strength, while at the same time enlarging its customer base.

Test programmes involving new distribution channels as well as market and product-line expansion through licensing have been launched in a number of countries, including Japan, Spain and the United States. The integration of card and product marketing with private sector fund-raising, a key feature of the new brand-based management, will allow coordinated brand development and maximum use of all resources to reach both donors and buyers, which were formerly targeted separately.

PSD continues to build on existing corporate partnerships for fund-raising and to pursue new opportunities for collaboration. The continuing partnerships with Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts and ITT-Sheraton, and with the 17 airlines participating in the 'Change for Good' foreign-currency collection programme, raised millions of dollars for UNICEF in 1997.

During the year, new promotional licensing partnerships were started with Caran d'Ache pencils and Flik Flak children's watches. Caran d'Ache will give UNICEF a royalty from the sale of pencils for two years and will donate two pencils for every box sold to UNICEF-supported education programmes. UNICEF is also receiving a royalty on children's watches by Flik Flak. Through their use of the UNICEF logo and their marketing and promotional campaigns, these and other partnerships not only raise funds but also increase public awareness of UNICEF and its programmes.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

DURING THE YEAR, THE INFORMATION Technology Division (formerly Information Resources Management or IRM) brought all offices and sub-offices on-line by establishing email connections to an additional 120 locations. Internet connections were set up in over 75 per cent of offices, and a UNICEF Intranet was created to give offices on-line access to the organization's basic documents, including those relating to rules, procedures, guidelines, policies and field directories. Groupwork tools were piloted, including a Programme Knowledge Network.

The organization made progress on introducing three new resource management systems. The first to be released was the Programme Manager System (PROMS), which combines several programme functions: planning and disbursement of resources; monitoring; and reporting. Work is well under way on the two other management systems—finance and logistics, and human resources and payroll. Computer programming problems related to the year 2000 were identified, and action was initiated to solve them, to be completed by April 1999.

In recognition of the critical role information technology will play in facilitating future progress, UNICEF restructured its Information Technology function and drafted a comprehensive strategy, which is now under discussion and review in the regions and will be finalized by mid-1998.

HUMAN RESOURCES

UNICEF'S ABILITY TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE programmes for children and women hinges on its strong field presence. At the end of 1997, the organization had 6,280 posts in 242 locations in 133 countries. Eighty-four per cent of these posts were in the field.

UNICEF's global priorities are reflected in its distribution of posts. Thirty-six per cent of posts are assigned to sub-Saharan African countries; 25 per cent are in Asia; 11 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean; 8 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa; and 4 per cent in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Baltic States. The remainder are assigned to headquarters locations in New York, Copenhagen and Florence, as well as the Regional Office for Europe, in Geneva.

UNICEF's staff comprises individuals from 161 nationalities, 82 per cent of whom are from developing countries. Forty-seven per cent of UNICEF's professional staff are National Officers, who work within their own countries and are chosen for their special knowledge of local situations, languages and cultures. Women occupy 38 per cent of professional posts and 27 per cent of director posts.

TOTAL UNICEF INCOME BY SOURCE OF FUNDING, 1997[1]

	Governmental Contributions		Private Sector Contributions				
			National Committees		Other Contributions		
	General Resources	Supplementary Funds[2]	General Resources[3]	Supplementary Funds[2]	General Resources[3]	Supplementary Funds[2]	Total
Albania					6,922		6,922
Algeria					100,141		100,141
Andorra	10,000		51,851	61,930			123,781
Angola					54,524		54,524
Argentina		382,126			689,743	2,298,114	3,369,983
Armenia						6,121	6,121
Australia	3,492,063	9,062,863	1,254,928	2,303,050	5,370		16,118,274
Austria	1,756,401	538,769	2,604,259	962,218			5,861,647
Azerbaijan					3,474	318,200	321,674
Bahrain					167,098		167,098
Bangladesh	30,000				5,200	4,739	39,939
Barbados	6,000				40,251		46,251
Belgium	2,209,945	1,375,964	4,532,633	432,611			8,551,153
Belize					485		485
Benin	6,500				36,762		43,262
Bhutan					2,994		2,994
Bolivia	52,000	433,698			144,776	34,507	664,981
Bosnia and Herzegovina					3,784		3,784
Botswana	10,930				9,192		20,122
Brazil					5,092,311	7,843,620	12,935,931
British Virgin Islands	19,217						19,217
Bulgaria	73		179,912				179,985
Burkina Faso	5,093				21,268		26,361
Burundi	2,594						2,594
Cambodia					3,490	5,000	8,490
Cameroon					26,617		26,617
Canada	9,699,049	12,646,793	3,076,452	4,803,871	2,769		30,228,934
Cape Verde					25,472		25,472
Central African Republic		200,000			6,788		206,788
Chad		500,000			12,803		512,803
Chile	76,000				171,620	21,819	269,439
China	1,100,000				188,255		1,288,255
Colombia	480,769				1,056,914	442,626	1,980,309
Comoros					632		632
Congo					19,465		19,465
Costa Rica					67,520		67,520
Côte d'Ivoire					78,546	9,245	87,791
Croatia					175,342		175,342
Cuba	30,000				234,090		264,090
Cyprus	998				374,809		375,807
Czech Republic	116,959		223,498				340,457
Democratic Republic of the Congo					74,664		74,664
Denmark	26,374,916	9,724,075	1,907,036	256,539	5,830	1,520	38,269,916
Djibouti	2,000				15,899	7,000	24,899
Dominican Republic	11,151				157,372	5,661	174,184
Ecuador					403,157	56,272	459,429
Egypt	38,576				123,683	5,841	168,100
El Salvador	25,000				25,903		50,903
Equatorial Guinea					4,183		4,183
Eritrea					2,720		2,720

1) All contributions shown in US dollars. 2) Includes funds for regular and emergency programmes. 3) Private Sector Division (PSD) income included. PSD was referred to as Greeting Card and Related Operations (GCO) in prior years.

	Governmental Contributions		Private Sector Contributions				
			National Committees		Other Contributions		
	General Resources	Supplementary Funds[2]	General Resources[3]	Supplementary Funds[2]	General Resources[3]	Supplementary Funds[2]	Total
Estonia			57,630				57,630
Ethiopia	49,276				39,972		89,248
Fiji					3,892		3,892
Finland	13,187,108	1,569,282	2,238,023	1,895,313			18,889,726
France	7,993,177	873,602	28,186,801	3,719,416			40,772,996
Gabon					6,445		6,445
Gambia	5,000				8,913	3,957	17,870
Georgia						23,457	23,457
Germany	5,787,041	613,928	32,813,053	23,211,777		20,000	62,445,799
Ghana	5,000				28,744		33,744
Gibraltar					14,664		14,664
Greece	200,000	10,000	3,154,500	255,321			3,619,821
Guatemala					49,213		49,213
Guinea					31,980	17,282	49,262
Guinea-Bissau					12,865		12,865
Guyana					6,749		6,749
Haiti					27,247		27,247
Honduras					55,485	8,420	63,905
Hong Kong	15,881		3,613,933	1,046,413			4,676,227
Hungary			291,361	5,000			296,361
Iceland	242,779		19,698				262,477
India	1,731,965				1,487,148	8,451	3,227,564
Indonesia	315,000				395,262		710,262
Iran	44,000				222,953		266,953
Iraq					2,112	353,300	355,412
Ireland	1,859,360	2,210,712	495,908		6		4,565,986
Israel	15,000		39,088		30		54,118
Italy	13,372,093	4,914,382	21,001,188	2,422,425	230		41,710,318
Jamaica	490				34,763		35,253
Japan	28,000,000	3,030,000	35,518,695	7,010,689	15,242		73,574,626
Jordan	14,124				81,463		95,587
Kenya					(37,677)		(37,677)
Kuwait	200,000				43,820		243,820
Lao People's Democratic Republic	5,000				6,136		11,136
Latvia			14,979				14,979
Lebanon	8,000	86,145			141,264	129,804	365,213
Lesotho		61,911			2,774		64,685
Liberia					573		573
Libya					501,550		501,550
Liechtenstein	3,472						3,472
Lithuania			78,925				78,925
Luxembourg	373,560	1,271,367	883,294	289,778			2,817,999
Madagascar	709				42,701	12,066	55,476
Malawi	3,468				10,943		14,411
Malaysia	84,000				105,862		189,862
Maldives	5,051						5,051
Mali					13,891		13,891
Malta	3,880				5,689		9,569
Marshall Islands	1,000						1,000
Mauritania	3,049				16,264		19,313
Mauritius	11,538				61,966	2,030	75,534
Mexico	204,391				864,829	125,998	1,195,218

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	Governmental Contributions		Private Sector Contributions				
			National Committees		Other Contributions		
	General Resources	Supplementary Funds[2]	General Resources[3]	Supplementary Funds[2]	General Resources[3]	Supplementary Funds[2]	Total
Monaco	15,845				141,581	37,162	194,588
Mongolia	10,000					2,020	12,020
Morocco	75,000				398,899	67,567	541,466
Mozambique					60,113		60,113
Myanmar	266,545				15,172		281,717
Namibia					2,791		2,791
Nepal					11,928		11,928
Netherlands	28,900,113	25,627,491	24,574,503	5,785,701			84,887,808
New Zealand	827,586	1,795,115	122,579	133,468	161		2,878,909
Nicaragua					20,799		20,799
Niger					20,526		20,526
Nigeria					403,554	196,234	599,788
Norway	39,045,133	23,362,953	1,509,890	603,646			64,521,622
Oman	50,000				72,819		122,819
Pacific Island countries						89,715	89,715
Pakistan	143,269				251,930	10,724	405,923
Panama		100,000			121,846	4,683	226,529
Papua New Guinea					18,387		18,387
Paraguay	6,000	27,650			85,590		119,240
Peru	30,000				714,326	97,791	842,117
Philippines	204,595				497,321	910,303	1,612,219
Poland			630,659				630,659
Portugal	100,000	25,000	2,359,457	20,515			2,504,972
Qatar					14,423		14,423
Republic of Korea	1,800,000	600,000	2,927,062	849,159			6,176,221
Republic of Moldova					1,713	35,167	36,880
Romania	1,354		200,863				202,217
Russian Federation	500,000				200		500,200
Rwanda					5,199		5,199
Saint Lucia	2,586						2,586
San Marino	11,713			30,000			41,713
Sao Tome and Principe					3,639		3,639
Saudi Arabia	1,000,000				248,011		1,248,011
Senegal					90,931	4,395	95,326
Seychelles	100						100
Sierra Leone					2,674		2,674
Singapore	40,000				225,639	35,416	301,055
Slovakia			236,803				236,803
Slovenia	3,012		862,850				865,862
Somalia					2,100		2,100
South Africa	40,978				642		41,620
Spain	1,701,896		14,050,841	13,408,845		300,000	29,461,582
Sri Lanka	1,261				46,932		48,193
Sudan		60,790			25,988		86,778
Suriname		250,000					250,000
Sweden	37,353,024	33,776,704	1,736,210	756,086	2,512		73,624,536
Switzerland	11,724,138	1,207,145	9,910,732	2,189,451	420,058	2,500,000	27,951,524
Syria					94,070	819	94,889
Tanzania	3,683				40,594		44,277
Thailand	258,705				339,988	1,417,677	2,016,370
The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia					62,340	2,727	65,067
Togo					15,183		15,183

	Governmental Contributions		Private Sector Contributions				
			National Committees		Other Contributions		
	General Resources	Supplementary Funds[2]	General Resources[3]	Supplementary Funds[3]	General Resources[3]	Supplementary Funds[3]	Total
Trinidad and Tobago	1,588				31,973		33,561
Tunisia	65,091				194,022		259,113
Turkey	120,000		1,023,280	15,000			1,158,280
Uganda					62,721		62,721
Ukraine					1,580		1,580
United Arab Emirates					8,210		8,210
United Kingdom	13,744,977	21,607,047	2,011,865	7,632,104	2,539	2,398	45,000,930
United States	100,000,000	65,096,798	7,652,661	10,668,631	56,622	46,258	183,520,970
Uruguay	30,000				272,893	25,493	328,386
Venezuela	108,527				212,269	580,373	901,169
Viet Nam	12,794				36,359	9,429	58,582
West Bank and Gaza					5,811		5,811
Yemen					12,729	20,000	32,729
Yugoslavia					23,444	29,906	53,350
Zambia		204,824			51,740		256,564
Zimbabwe					31,715		31,715
SUBTOTAL	357,500,159	223,247,134	212,047,900	90,768,957	19,434,007	18,191,307	921,189,464
Intergovernmental, Non-governmental and United Nations System Contributors							
Agence de coopération culturelle et technique		81,305					81,305
Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Netherlands						60,100	60,100
Church World Service						200,000	200,000
European Union		18,144,237					18,144,237
International Child Development Centre						9,525	9,525
International Development Research Centre						3,808,821	3,808,821
International Fund for Agricultural Development						357,552	357,552
Nippon Foundation						1,112,673	1,112,673
OPEC Fund		700,000					700,000
OXFAM, Hong Kong						197,093	197,093
OXFAM, London						81,699	81,699
Plan International						80,000	80,000
The Rockefeller Foundation						20,135	20,135
Rotary International						9,252,182	9,252,182
Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, Japan					787,159	800,000	1,587,159
UN International Drug Control Programme						10,500	10,500
UN Women's Guild					1,000	4,496	5,496
UN and UN Agencies Staff					4,550	10,145	14,695
UN Secretariat						2,161,415	2,161,415
UNDP, New York						98,230	98,230
UNESCO, Paris						40,000	40,000
UNHCR, Geneva						120,000	120,000
WHO, Geneva						133,755	133,755
World Bank						382,000	382,000
SUBTOTAL	357,500,159	242,172,676	212,047,900	90,768,957	20,226,716	37,131,628	959,848,042
OTHER INCOME							27,488,933
INCOME ADJUSTMENT TO PRIOR YEARS[4]	172,197	(11,731,319)		(530,914)		(2,856,578)	(14,946,615)
LESS COST OF GREETING CARDS SOLD			(54,673,241)		(7,974,358)		(62,647,599)
LESS PSD[3] FISCAL PERIOD ADJUSTMENT[5]			(7,173,096)		(635,630)		(7,808,726)
GRAND TOTAL	357,672,356	230,441,357	150,201,564	90,238,043	11,616,727	34,275,050	901,934,034

4) Includes refunds and adjustments to income recognized in previous years. 5) PSD operated, in 1997 and prior years, on a different fiscal year from UNICEF. This adjustment reconciles the different accounting periods.

Glossary

CEE/CIS	Central and Eastern Europe/Commonwealth of Independent States
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
EAPRO	East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (UNICEF)
ESARO	Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (UNICEF)
FGM	female genital mutilation
GNP	gross national product
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICDB	International Children's Day of Broadcasting
ICDC	International Child Development Centre (UNICEF)
IDD	iodine deficiency disorders
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITD	Information Technology Division (UNICEF)
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
JCGP	Joint Consultative Group on Policy (United Nations)
MENARO	Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (UNICEF)
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
NGO	non-governmental organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
ORS	oral rehydration salts
ORT	oral rehydration therapy
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PROANDES	Programme for the Andean Region
PROMS	Programme Manager System
PSD	Private Sector Division (UNICEF)
ROSA	Regional Office for South Asia (UNICEF)
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SIP	Sector Investment Programme
SWAP	Sector-wide Approach
TACRO	The Americas and Caribbean Regional Office (UNICEF)
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCARO	West and Central Africa Regional Office (UNICEF)
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Note: All dollars referred to throughout the report are US dollars.

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